



VOL. 4

#1

OF 9
COVER A

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS **HERE** WITH AN **ALL NEW** VOLUME OF...

M I C H A E L T U R N E R ' S

SOULFIRE



M I C H A E L T U R N E R ' S
SOULFIRE



MICHAEL
TURNER
B. 1971

VOLUME FOUR

SOULFIRE CREATED BY: MICHAEL TURNER

CHAOS REBORN

plot—
J.T. KRUL & FRANK MASTROMAURO

story—
J.T. KRUL

pencils—
MIKE DeBALFO

colors—
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letters—
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THE STORY SO FAR...

The Search for the Light has ended. Malikai, the Samusara--Bearer of the Light--has returned from the endless oblivion of chaos. However, all is not well in the magical kingdom of Anantia. Faye, the Queen of the Rahtumi and caretaker of the union between her people and their long-rivaled Sethoru, finds herself at odds with her betrothed king, the brash yet dangerous Sarin. While the strain between the two continues to threaten the sanctity of the realm altogether, Grace holds the darkest secret of all—one that could alter the course of both her mind and body forever...

CITY OF ANANTIA,
THE EVERLANDS.

ALL MY LIFE, I'VE
BEEN FIGHTING
TO PROTECT
THIS WORLD.

BUT SO IS MALIKAI, THE
SAMUSARA. WHEN HIS SPIRIT
WAS LOST BEYOND THIS WORLD,
MAGIC BECAME UNSTABLE--
DANGEROUS.

WE JOURNEYED
TO THE REALM OF
CHAOS ITSELF TO
RESCUE HIM.*

THEY STILL SEEM
TROUBLED, *GRACE*.
NOT SURPRISING, I
GUESS-- CONSIDERING
WHAT'S BEEN GOING
ON LATELY.

EASY, FELLA.
EVERYTHING
IS OKAY.

TO PROTECT THE
MAGIC. THAT HAS
BEEN MY DUTY.

THE DRAGONS
ARE CONNECTED
TO THAT MAGIC.

WE SAVED
HIM.

*SEE SOULFIRE:
SEARCH FOR THE
LIGHT CROSSOVER
FOR DETAILS.

I THOUGHT
WE WON, BUT
IN TRUTH, WE
LOST.

I LOST.

GRACE?
WHAT'S WRONG
WITH THEM?

RAAWWR

NOTHING IS
WRONG.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
TO THEM?

I AM
SETTING
THEM
FREE.



NO!

YOU THINK YOU
CARED FOR THE
DRAGONS ALL
THESE YEARS?

YOU THINK
YOU WERE THEIR
SHEPHERD?

AHHH!

YOU
WERE THEIR
CAPTOR.

AGH!
GRACE,
HELP!

THERE IS NO
HELP, *SEPH*.
NOT FOR ANY
OF YOU.

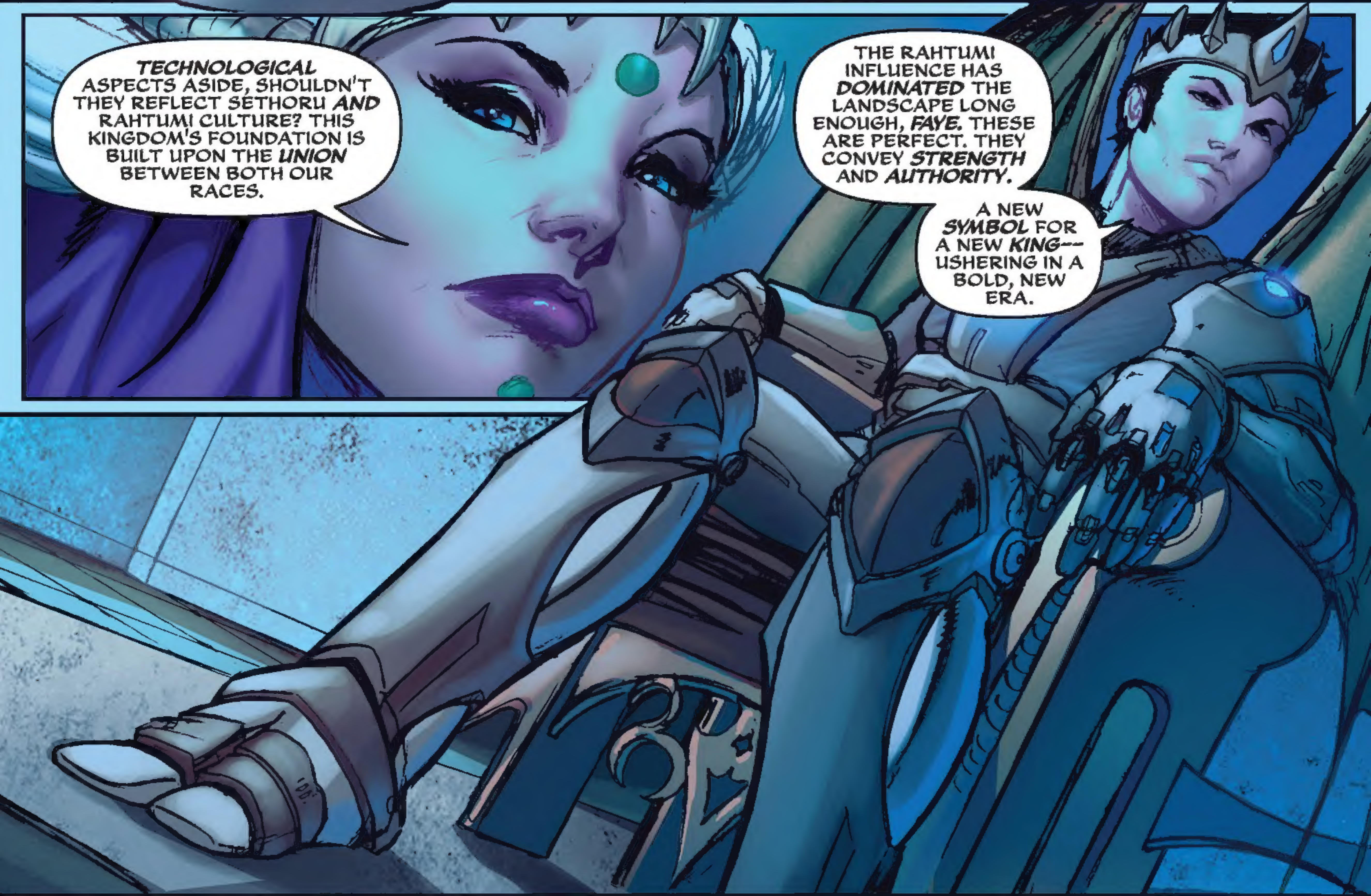
AND,
I'M NOT
GRACE.



ELEGANT
THRONES,
KING SARIN.
I PARTICULARLY
LIKE HOW THE
DESIGN HARKENS
BACK TO ANCIENT
SETHORU
ARTISTRY.

MY BOYS
REALLY OUTDID
THEMSELVES. DON'T
YOU THINK?

AND, WHAT
DOES MY **QUEEN**
SAY ABOUT OUR
EARLY WEDDING
GIFT?



TECHNOLOGICAL
ASPECTS ASIDE, SHOULDN'T
THEY REFLECT **SETHORU AND**
RAHTUMI CULTURE? THIS
KINGDOM'S FOUNDATION IS
BUILT UPON THE **UNION**
BETWEEN BOTH OUR
RACES.

THE RAHTUMI
INFLUENCE HAS
DOMINATED THE
LANDSCAPE LONG
ENOUGH, **FAYE.** THESE
ARE PERFECT. THEY
CONVEY **STRENGTH**
AND **AUTHORITY.**

A NEW
SYMBOL FOR
A NEW **KING**---
USHERING IN A
BOLD, NEW
ERA.



LOOK AT THAT.
FAYE CAN BARELY
STAND THE SIGHT
OF HIM.

IF
YOU SAY
SO.



CAN'T SAY I BLAME HER. THE WHOLE THING MAKES ME *SICK*, TOO. THE WAY HE'S *PUSHING* HIS TECHNOLOGY INTO THIS REALM. IT GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING FAYE'S FOUGHT FOR.

CLEARLY, THERE IS NO LOVE BETWEEN THEM. THE FACT STILL REMAINS, SHE IS SOON TO MARRY HIM.

WHAT'S YOUR POINT, REN?



IT IS WIDELY KNOWN THAT YOU AND FAYE WERE TOGETHER BEFORE SHE BECAME QUEEN. AND NOW THAT SHE IS ABOUT TO MARRY ANOTHER, HERE YOU ARE-- RIGHT BY HER SIDE.



THAT'S *ANCIENT HISTORY*. LITERALLY. SHE CHOSE HER LIFE. I CHOSE *MINE*.

SHE *SERVES* THE KINGDOM. AND, I'LL HELP HER ANY WAY I CAN.



YOUR *LOYALTY* IS QUITE INSPIRING, DEX.

I ONLY WONDER IF YOU'LL BE AS DEDICATED ONCE SHE SAYS, "*I DO*."

PISS OFF.



NNNN.

HELP.. PLEASE...

THE... DRAGONS...



...THEY
ARE **KILLING**
EVERYTHING!



DAMN
TIDE! MY
KINGDOM IS
FALLING
APART.

LOOKS
LIKE YOU FORGOT
THE GOLDEN RULE,
P.J.-- LOCATION,
LOCATION,
LOCATION.



THEN AGAIN,
COULD BE A **DESIGN**
FLAW. I ACCOUNTED
FOR THE POTENTIAL
WATER EROSION WITH
A PERIMETER
TRENCH.

DANG,
BENOIST.

YOU
KNOW ME,
SONIA. GO
BIG OR GO
HOME.



YEAH,
BUT DID YOU
ACCOUNT FOR
THIS?

CANNONBALL!



NO!!!

P.J.!



I CAN'T
BELIEVE HE
DID THAT.

I TOTALLY CAN.
P.J. HATES BEING
UPSTAGED.

NOW
YOU'RE
GONNA PAY
FOR THAT
ONE, KID.



GOD,
I MISSED
THIS.

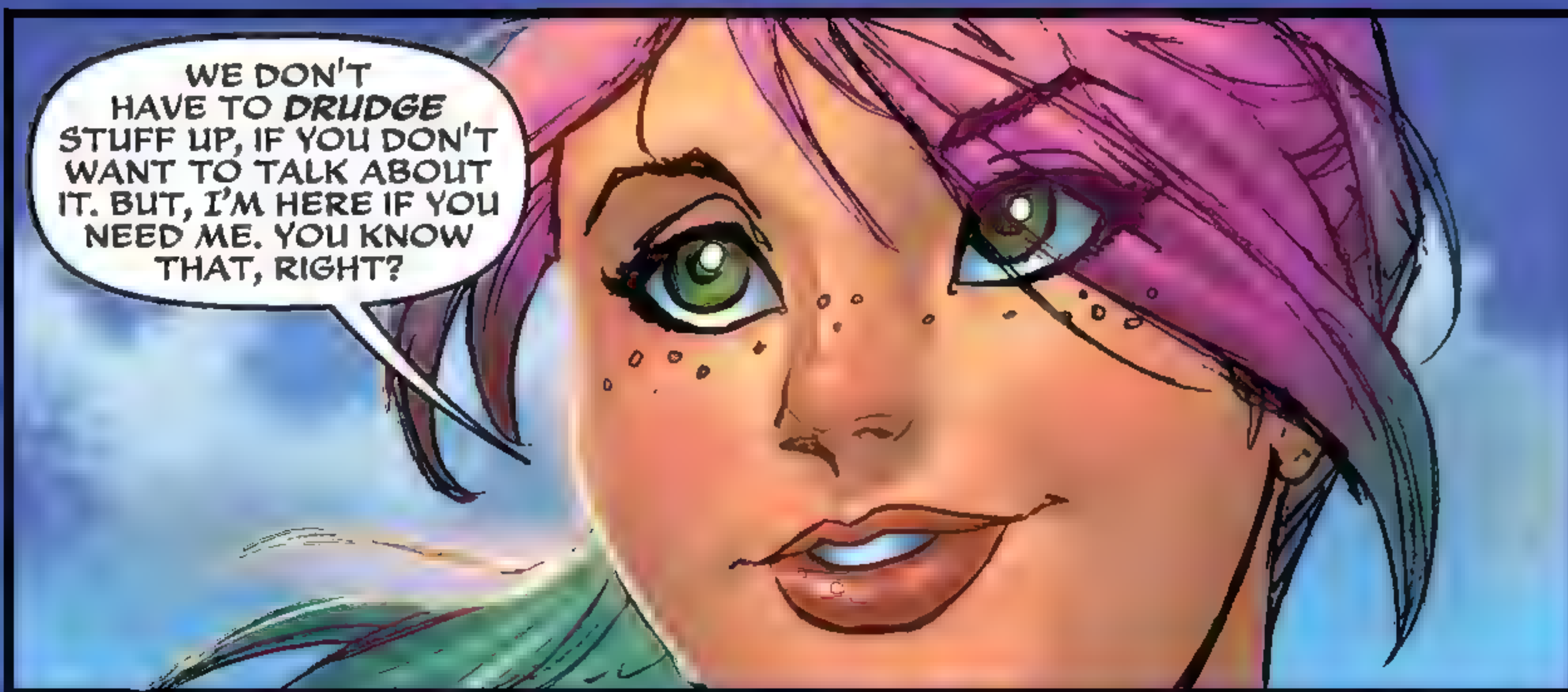
MISSED WHAT
EXACTLY?

YOU. YOUR
SMILE. YOUR
LAUGH.



I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU GUYS AGAIN. THAT I WAS LOST... FOREVER.

I KNOW. ME TOO.



WE DON'T HAVE TO **DRUDGE** STUFF UP, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT. BUT, I'M HERE IF YOU NEED ME. YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?



I KNOW, BUT I'M DONE WORRYING ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED OR **OBSESSING** ABOUT THE FUTURE.

I'M **ALIVE**. HERE WITH YOU. THAT'S WHAT'S **IMPORTANT**. SO, LET'S LIVE IN THE **MOMENT**. SOUND GOOD?

SOUNDS GREAT.



AND FOR THIS MOMENT, HOW ABOUT WE HELP **BENOIST** TEACH **P.J.** A LESSON ABOUT PLAYING NICELY WITH OTHERS?



I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

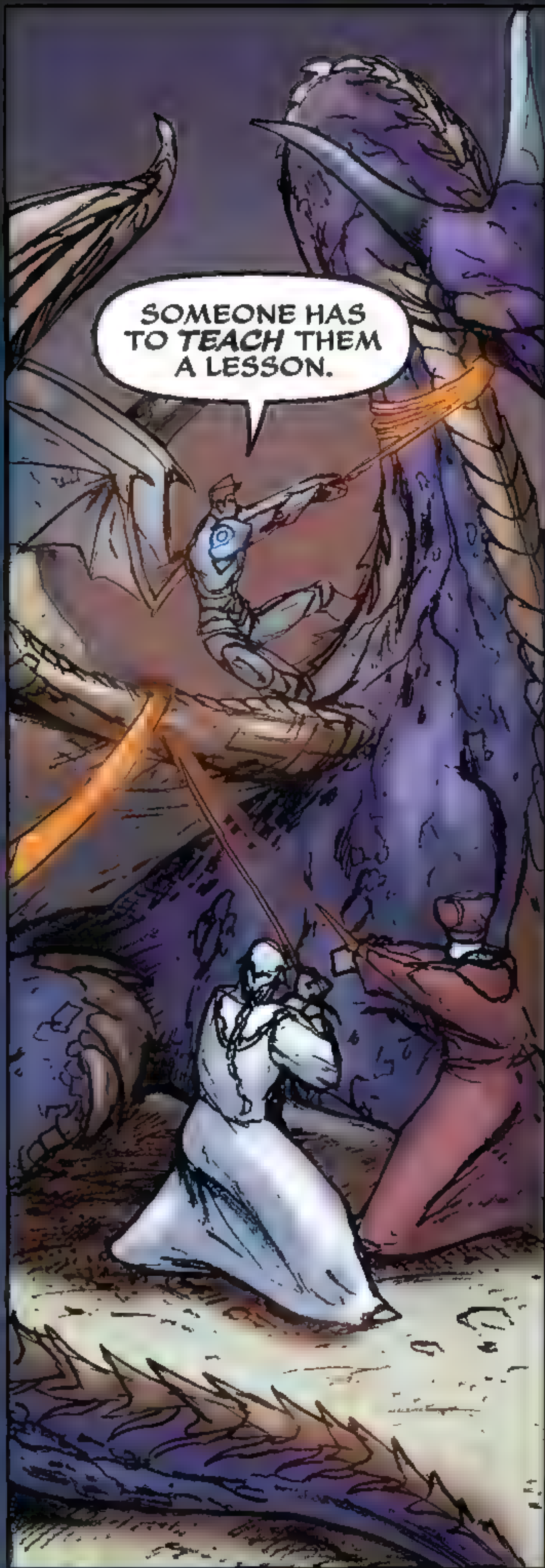


A NANTIA.

I'VE NEVER
SEEN THE DRAGONS
SO CRAZED!

I HAVE.
BUT THAT
WAS A LONG
TIME AGO.

THEY'RE
TOTALLY OUT OF
CONTROL!





THEY'RE
SICK.

WHY DO
THEY ATTACK,
NISABA?

I DO NOT
KNOW.

WE MUST
SAVE OUR
PEOPLE, BUT
WE MUST SAVE
THE DRAGONS
TOO, FROM
THEMSELVES.



MY QUEEN,
LOOK. IN THE SKY.
IS THAT *GRACE*?

YES.

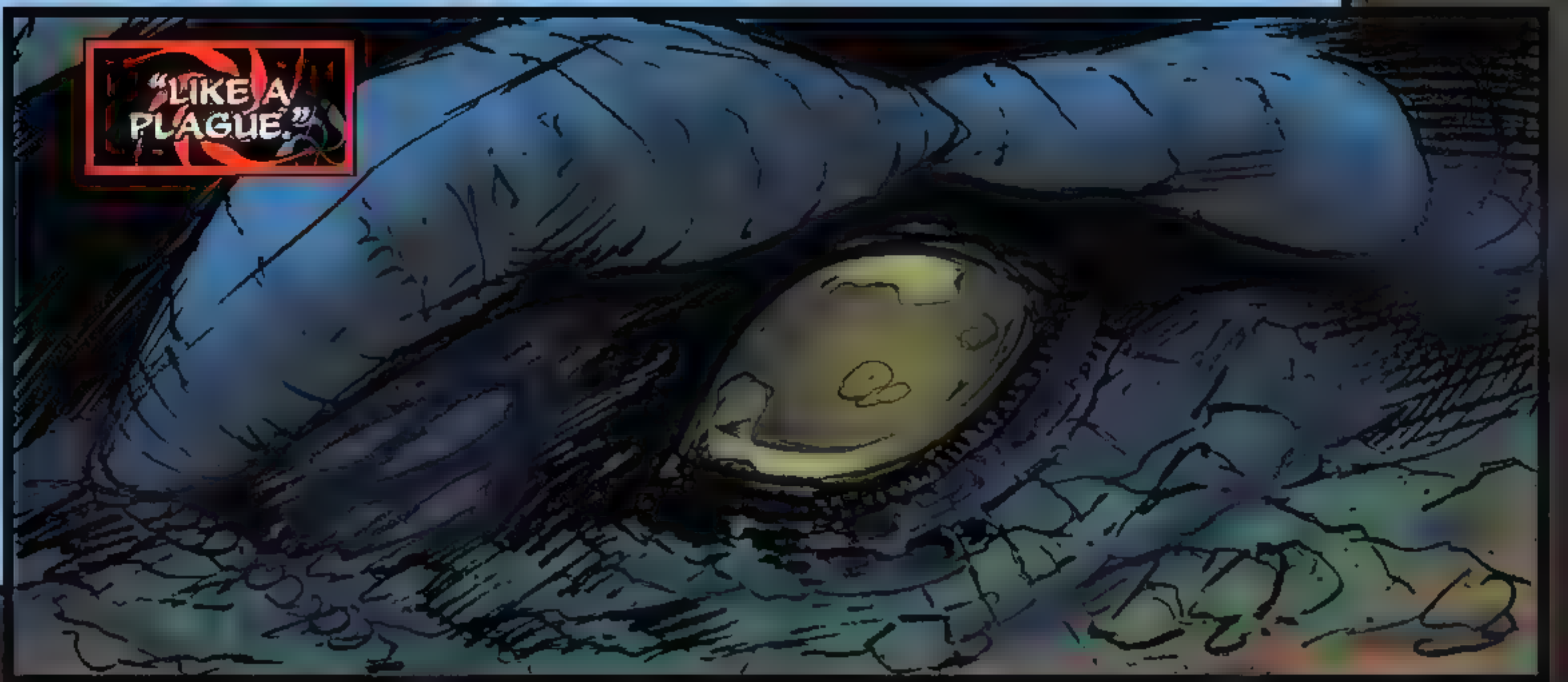
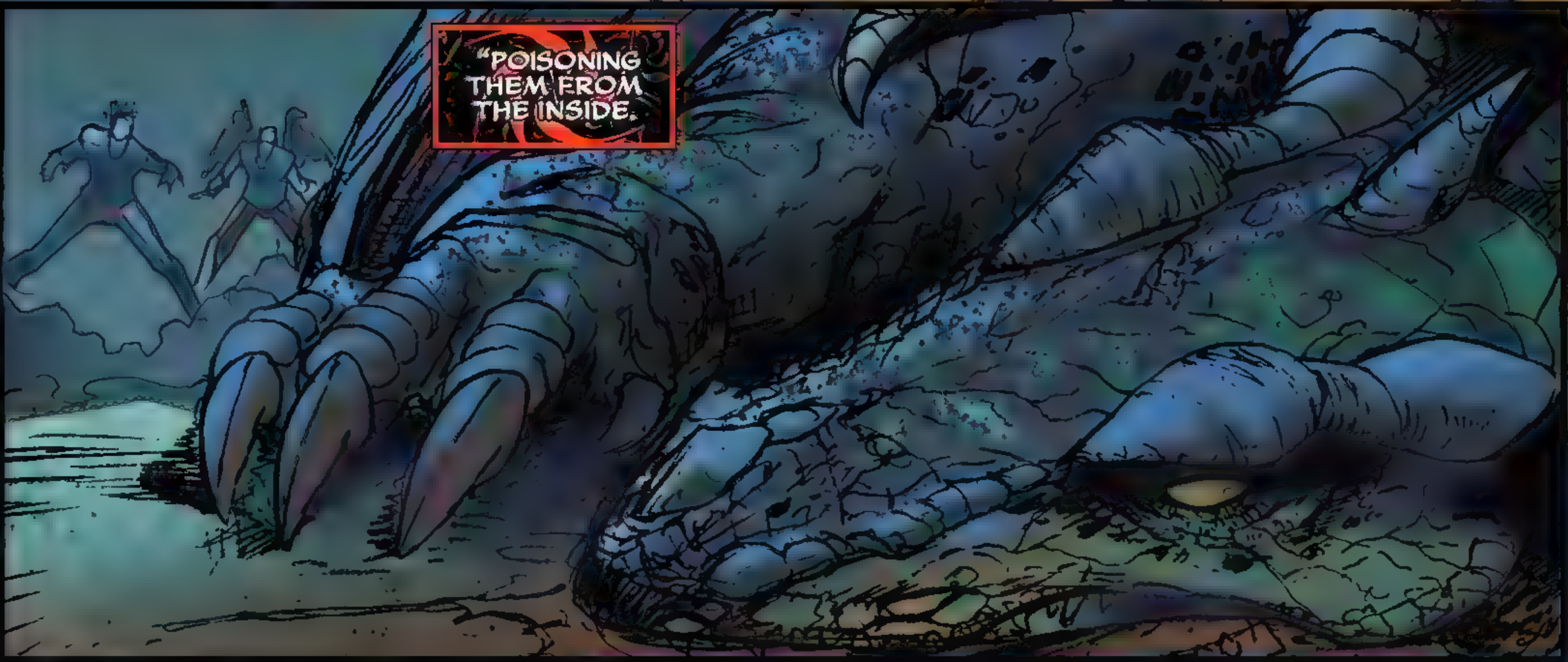
WHAT
IS SHE
DOING?



SHE'S...
LEAVING.



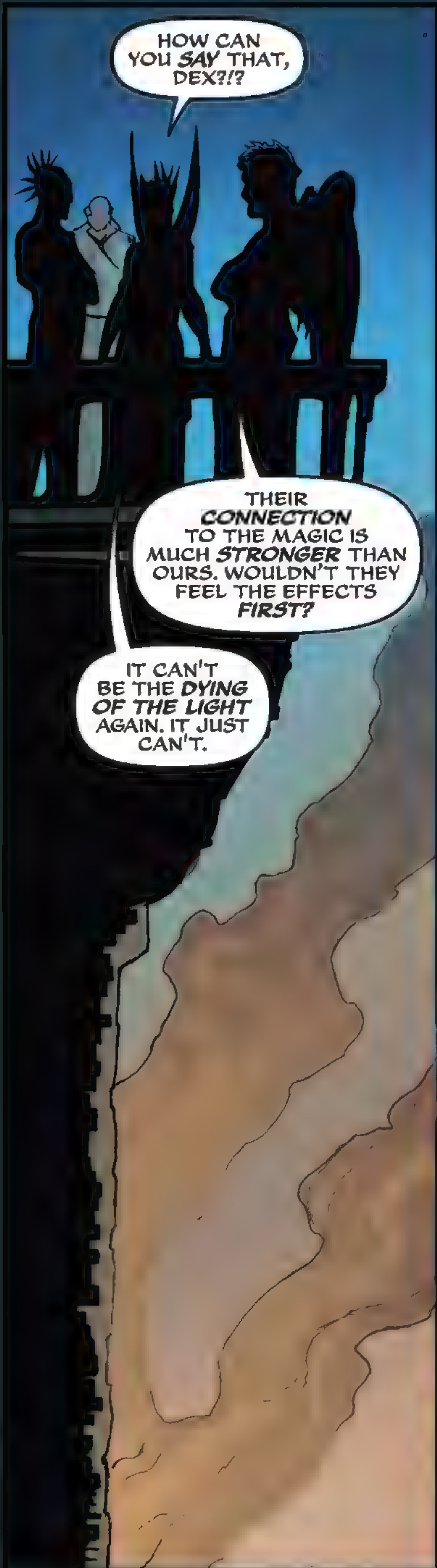
ROOQARR



"IF I DIDN'T
KNOW BETTER,
I'D SAY IT WAS A
SIGN OF THE END
OF ANOTHER AGE
OF MAGIC."



HOW CAN
YOU SAY THAT,
DEX?!!?



THEIR
CONNECTION
TO THE MAGIC IS
MUCH **STRONGER** THAN
OURS. WOULDN'T THEY
FEEL THE EFFECTS
FIRST?

IT CAN'T
BE THE DYING
OF THE LIGHT
AGAIN. IT JUST
CAN'T.

RELAX, MY QUEEN.
WE DO NOT THINK THAT
IS THE CASE. THERE WOULD
HAVE BEEN **OTHER**
INDICATIONS.

AND THE
DRAGONS?
ARE THEY ALL
DEAD?

YES. WE FOUND
MORE BODIES IN
THEIR NESTING
STABLE.

INCLUDING
SEPH.



NO... NOT
SEPH.

I'M
AFRAID
SO. THE
DRAGONS
TURNED
ON HIM.

MY GOD...



SEEMS TO
BE A LOT OF THAT
GOING AROUND,
RIGHT NOW.

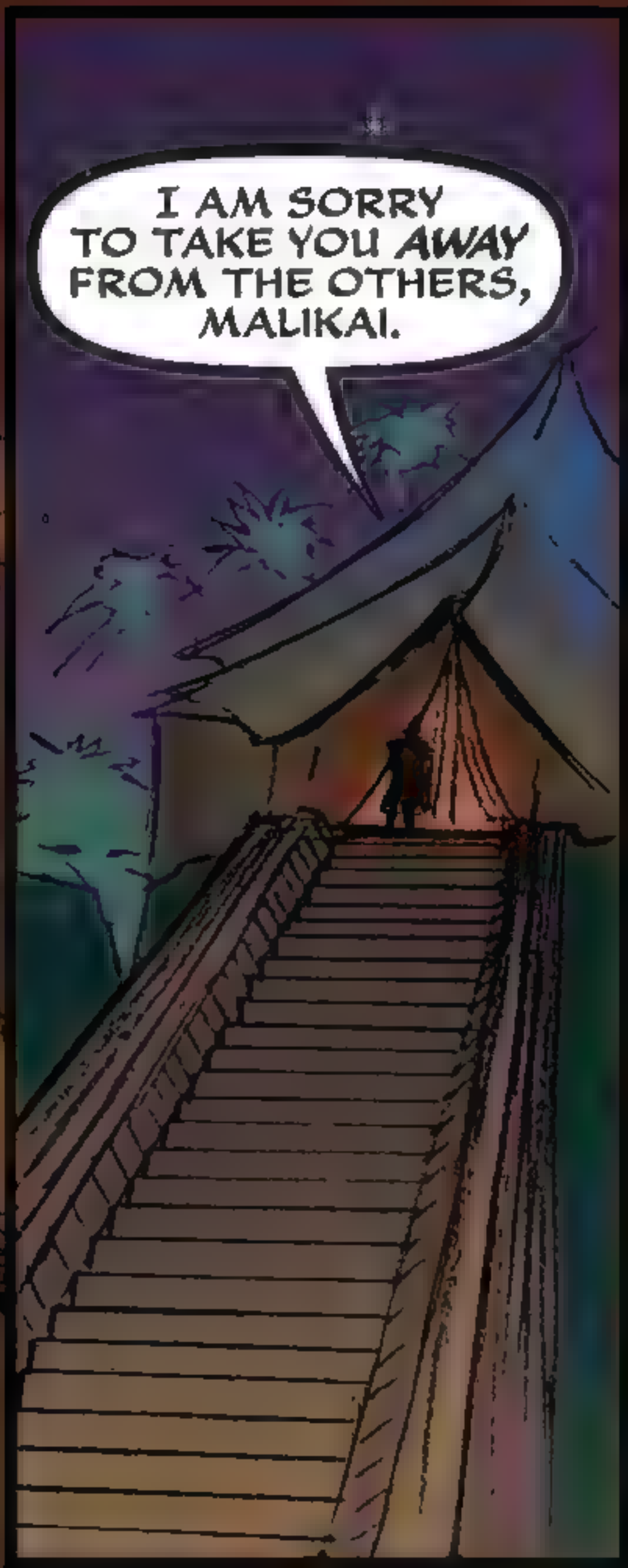
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

MY AUNT
SAYS YOU SAW
GRACE DURING
THE BATTLE.

INSTEAD
OF HELPING,
SHE TURNED
HER BACK ON
ALL OF US.







I AM SORRY
TO TAKE YOU AWAY
FROM THE OTHERS,
MALIKAI.

IF YOU
WANTED TO
TALK, *PILI*, YOU COULD
HAVE JUST COME DOWN
TO THE BEACH INSTEAD
OF LOOMING UP HERE
WITH THAT SENSE OF
FOREBODING.

MAYBE
I WAS AFRAID
P.J.'S CONSTANT
FLIRTING WOULD
DISTRACT ME.

WOULD THAT
BE SUCH A **BAD**
THING? TO LIVE
A LITTLE?

NOT IN THE
CARDS FOR ME,
I SUPPOSE.

I GUESS
YOU WOULD
KNOW.



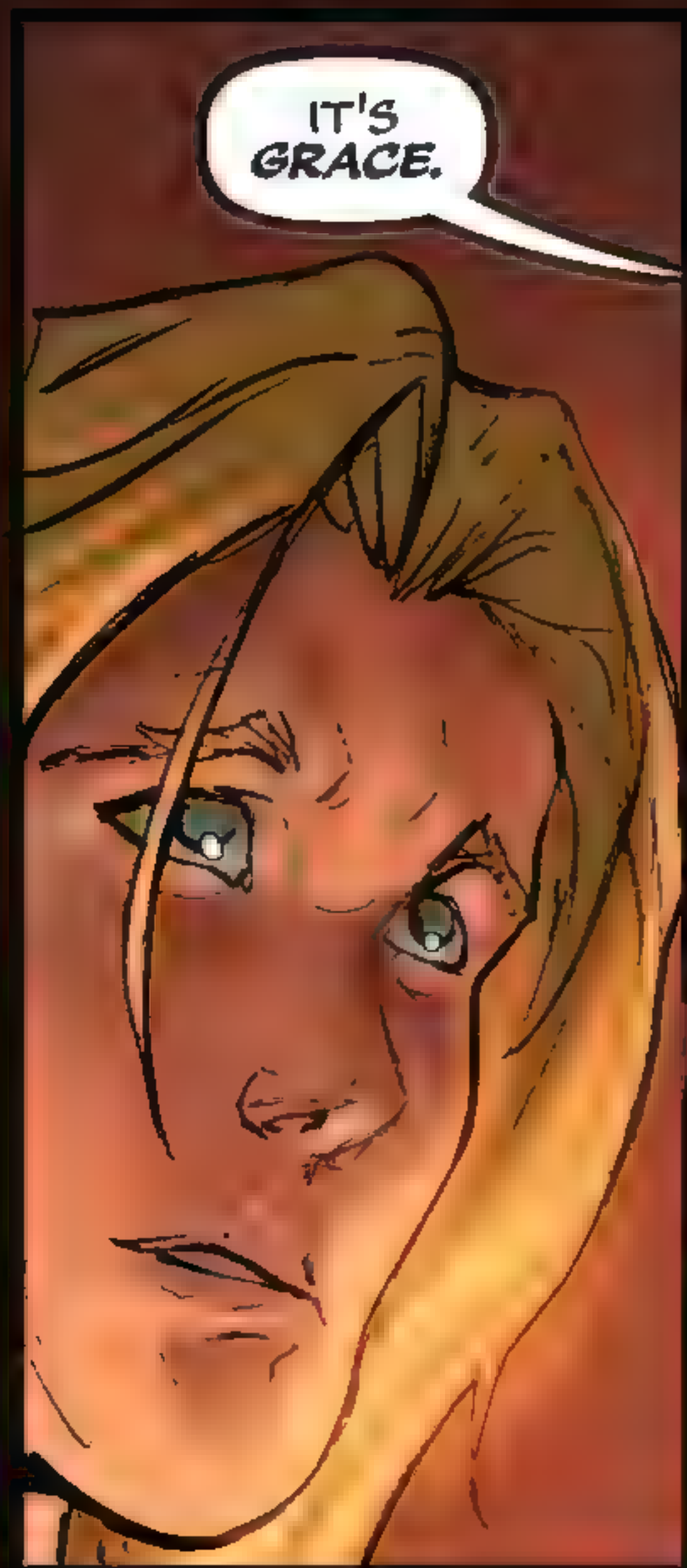
IF THIS
IS GOING TO BE
MORE ABOUT MY
DESTINY AND THE
RESPONSIBILITY I
CARRY BEING THE
SAMUSARA,
SAVE IT.

HAVEN'T
I DONE
ENOUGH?



YOU
HAVE. YOU'VE
DONE MORE THAN
ANYONE COULD
ASK.

THIS
ISN'T ABOUT
YOU. I'VE SEEN
VISIONS... IN THE
FLAMES.



IT'S
GRACE.

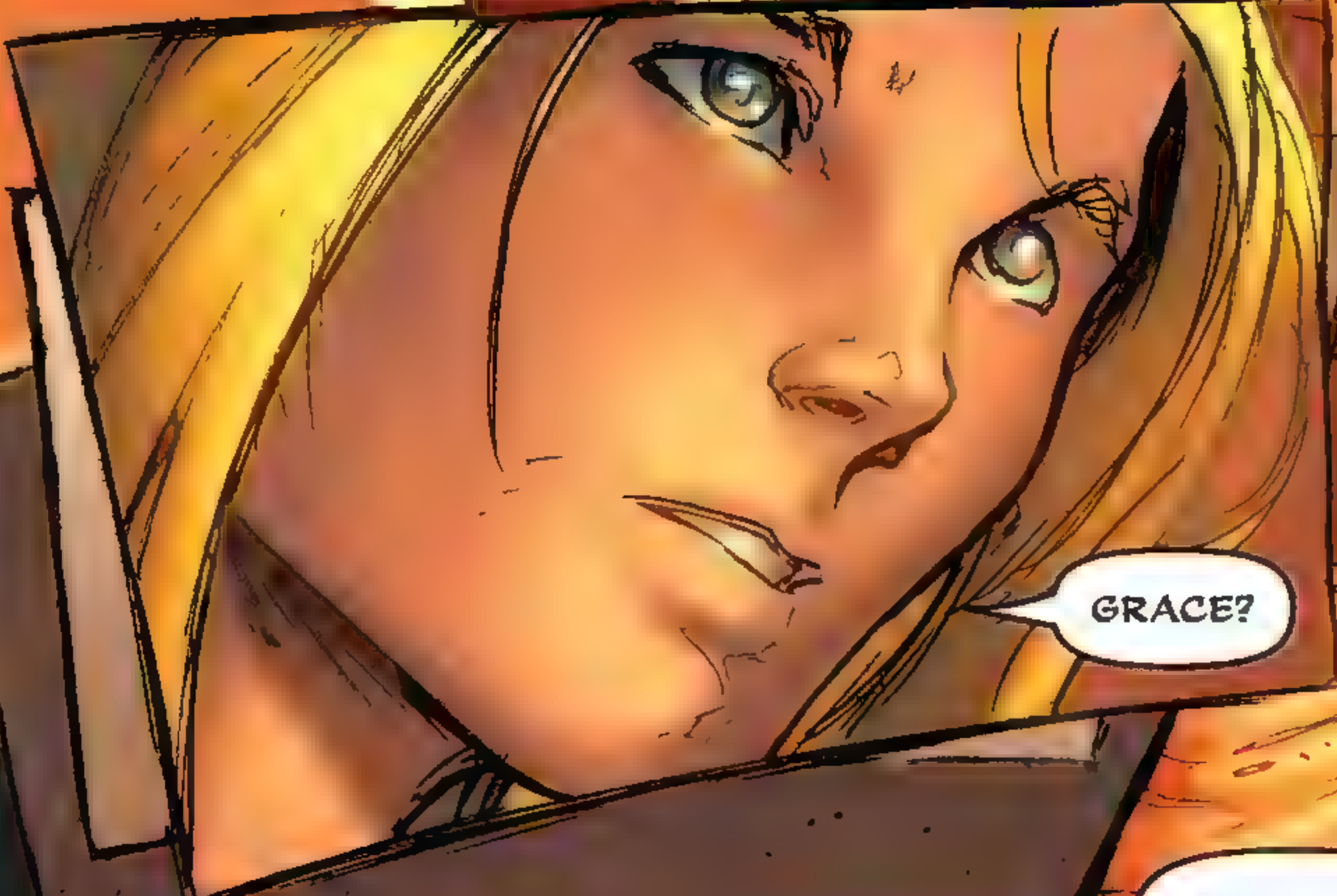
A woman with long blonde hair is completely engulfed in a massive, intense fire that fills the upper half of the frame. The flames are bright yellow and orange, with dark, swirling patterns. The background is dark, making the fire stand out.

WE ALL
VENTURED INTO
THE *CHAOS REALM*
TO RESCUE YOU, BUT IT
WAS GRACE WHO *RISKED*
THE MOST. AND NOW,
SHE IS THE ONE WHO
SUFFERS.

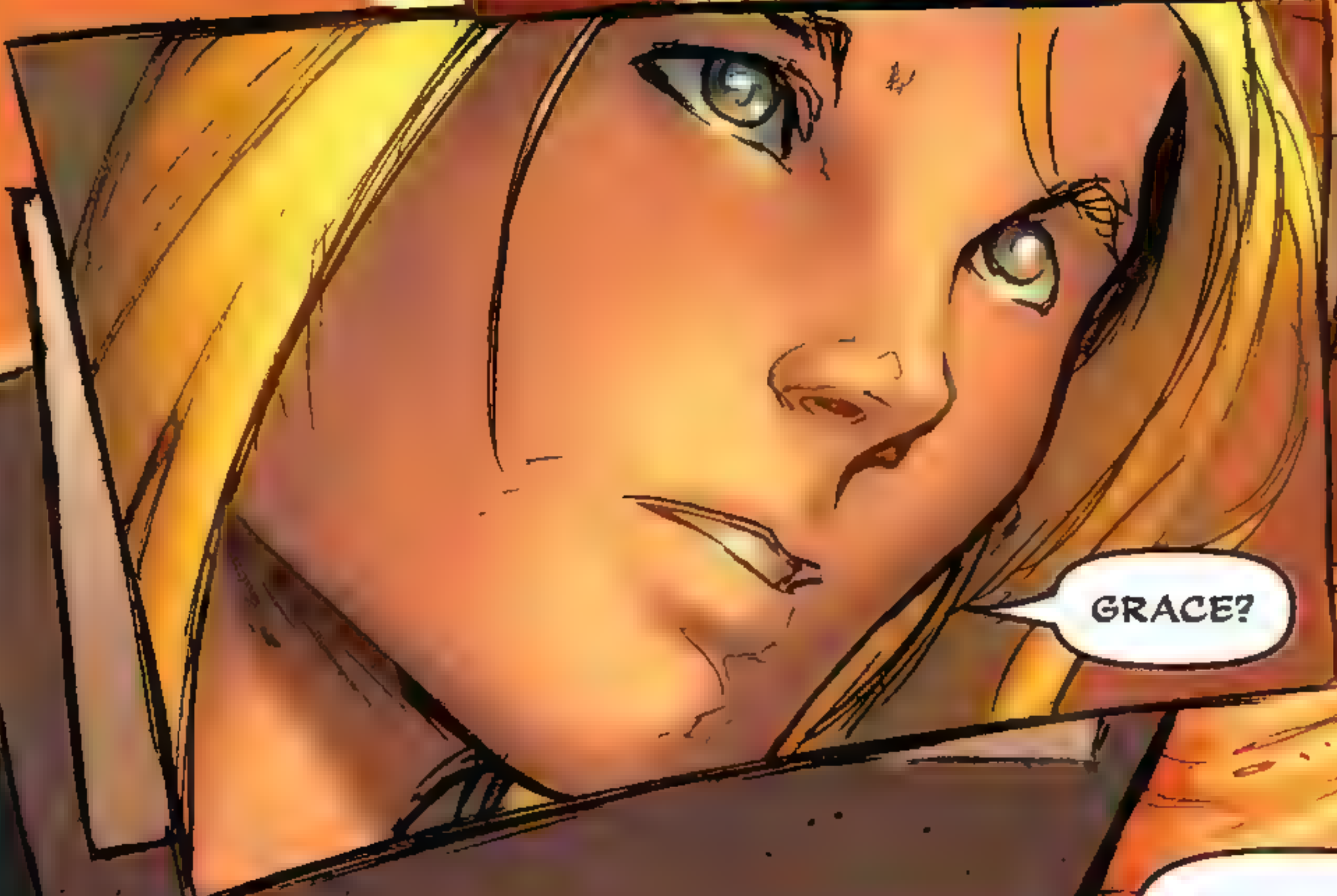
WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
HER?

SHE IS IN
DANGER-- *BODY*
AND *SOUL*. THE CHAOS
THAT COMES FOR HER IS
NOT ONLY FROM WITHIN.
IT IS SOMETHING FAR
GREATER.

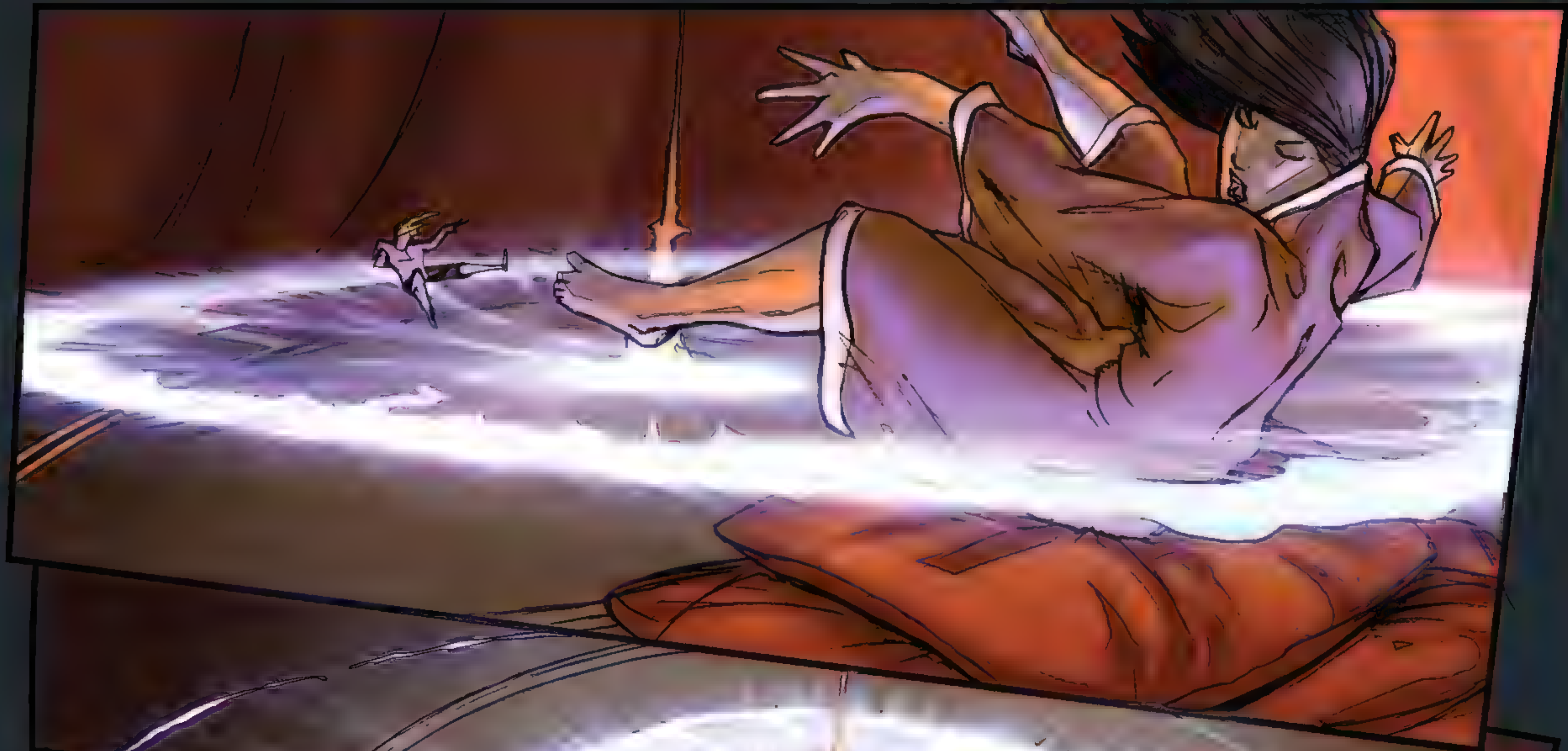
SOMETHING
FROM *BEYOND*
OUR WORLD.

A close-up of a woman's face, looking upwards with a concerned expression. She has blonde hair and blue eyes. The image is framed within a tilted rectangular panel.

GRACE?

A close-up of a woman's face, looking upwards with a concerned expression. She has blonde hair and blue eyes. The image is framed within a tilted rectangular panel.

SHE CAN
SEE US!

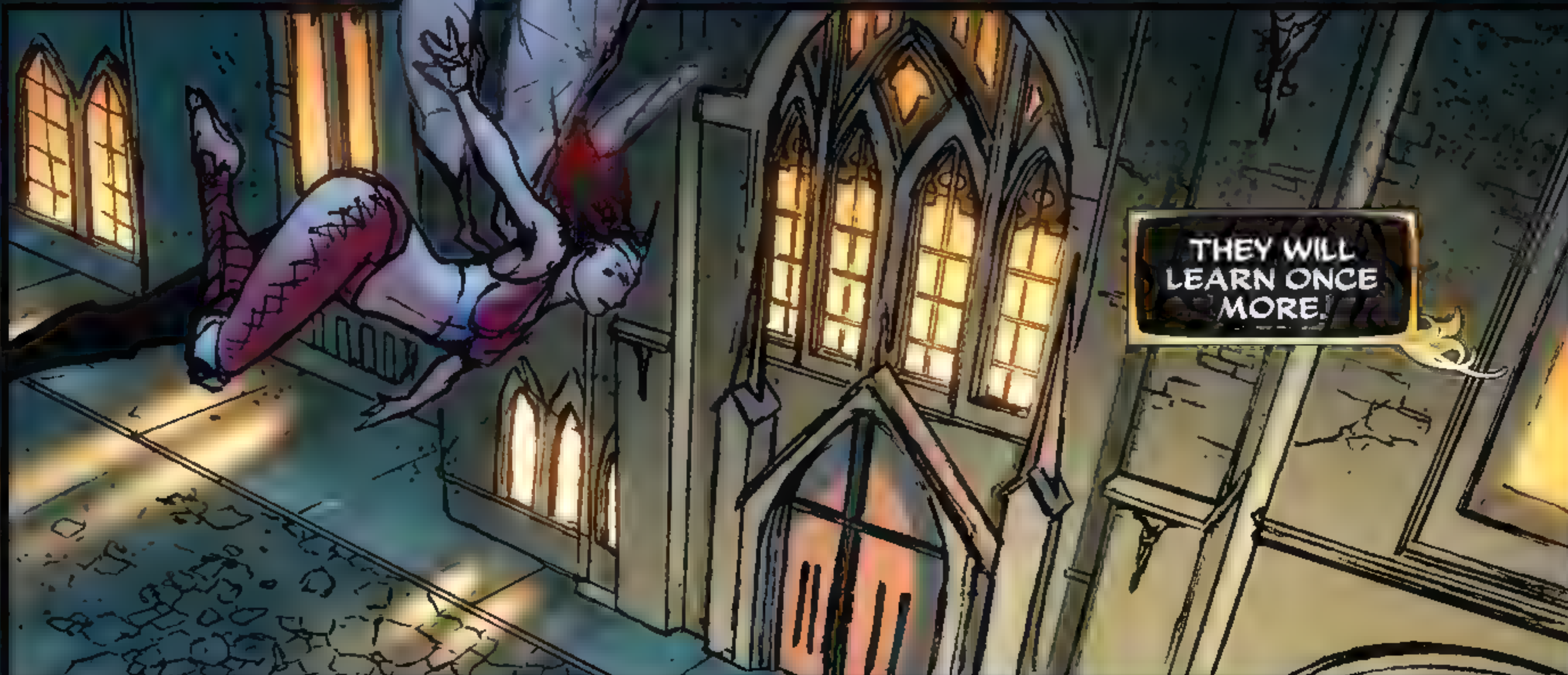




NEW POMPEII,
ITALY.

HOW NARROW
THEIR SCOPE.

HOW LIMITED
THEIR MEMORY.



THEY WILL
LEARN ONCE
MORE!

LONG
AGO, THIS
CITY THRIVED--
OBLIVIOUS TO
THEIR TRUE
POSITION IN
THE UNIVERSE.
BUT, THEY
LEARNED.

THEY
SAW THE
LIGHT IN THE
FORM OF A
GREAT FIRE
THAT
CONSUMED
THEM.



I DREAMED
ABOUT SEEING THIS
TEMPLE FOR YEARS.
I MEAN-- I'VE SEEN IT
BEFORE IN PICTURES.
BUT TO BE STANDING
HERE-- LOOKING AT IT
WITH MY OWN EYES.
IT-ITS...

BREATHTAKING?

TOTALLY.
HOW CAN YOU
LOOK AT THIS AND
NOT BELIEVE THAT
MAGIC EXISTS?

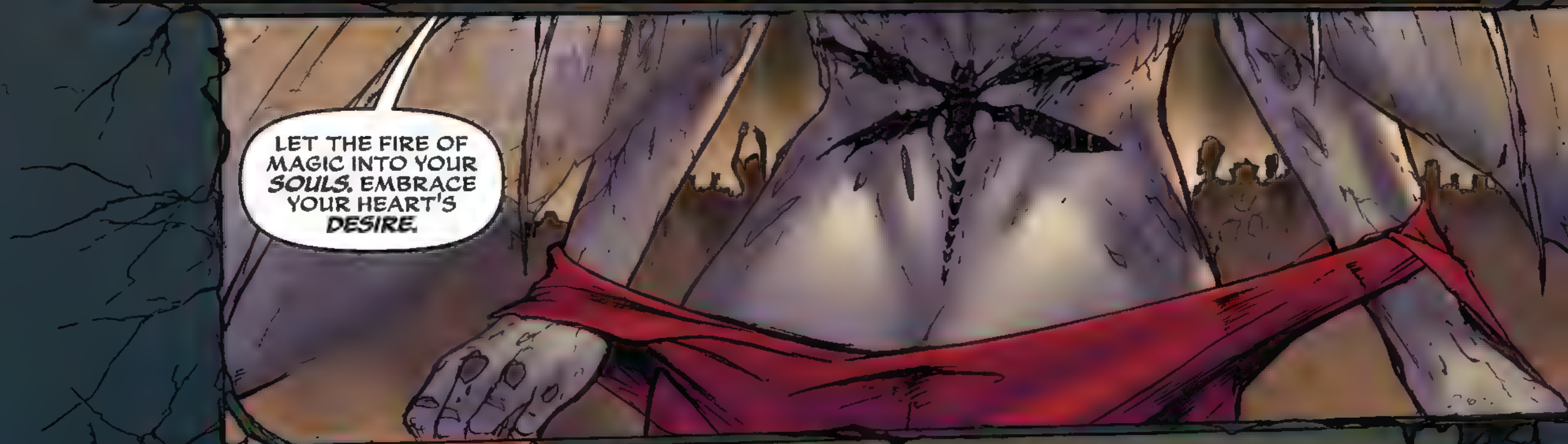


WHOA.

LOOKING
FOR SOME
MAGIC?

GOD IN
HEAVEN!

NOT
EXACTLY.



...OF
DEATH.



ASPEN

VOL. 4

#2

OF 9

COVER A

MICHAEL TURNERS SOULFIRE™



MIKE
DEATH
Net



VOL. 4

#2

OF 9

COVER B

MICHAEL TURNER'S SULFIRE



VOLUME FOUR

SUBJECT: ANANTIA, RAHTUMI, SETHORU, GRACE

THE DARK TOWER

plot—
J.T. KRUL & FRANK MASTROMAURO

story—
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pencils
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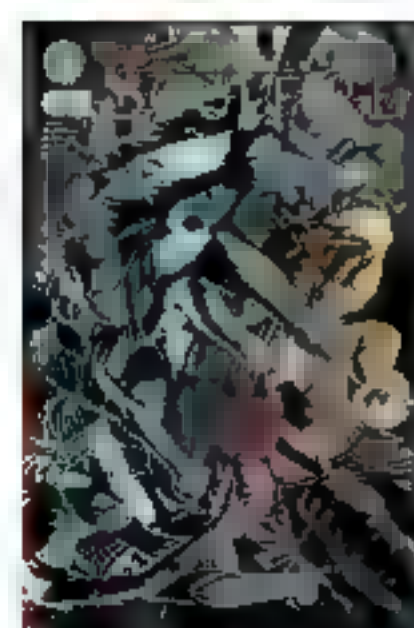
colors—
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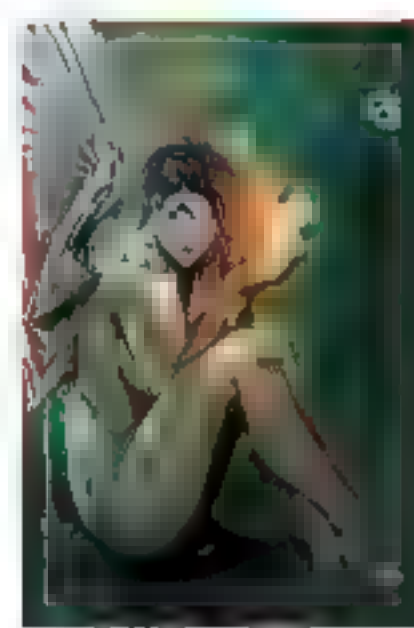
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THE STORY SO FAR...

The magical city of Anantia finds itself at war with itself under the new rule of King Sarin, and his perilous decisions that threaten the fabric of the unity between the Rahtumi and Sethoru. However, the greatest threat of all to the magic and the light--and the human race as well--remains Grace, as her soul stands corrupted by the fury of Chaos. Unfortunately, for the citizens of New Pompeii, this threat has already consumed their souls as well, leaving the "Angel of Death" in command of their actions...

A

AS FAR AS I'M
CONCERNED,
GRACE IS THE
MAGIC.

SHE'S BEEN
AROUND FOR
CENTURIES, NOT
THAT YOU'D KNOW
IT BY LOOKING
AT HER.

THERE WERE FIVE
SPECIAL MASTERS
THAT HELPED ME ON
MY JOURNEY AS THE
SAMUSARA-- THE
BRINGER OF LIGHT.
BUT GRACE IS THE
STRONGEST.

WE DIDN'T ALWAYS
SEE EYE-TO-EYE. SHE
KEPT ME IN THE DARK AT
TIMES, SHROUDING MY
DESTINY IN MYSTERY.
BUT I WOULDN'T BE
HERE TODAY, IF IT
WEREN'T FOR HER.

GRACE SAVED MY ASS MORE
TIMES THAN I CAN REMEMBER.
FREED ME FROM THE ABYSS OF
CHAOS ITSELF-- A FATE
WORSE THAN DEATH.

NOW, SHE'S
IN TROUBLE. I HAVE
TO HELP HER.

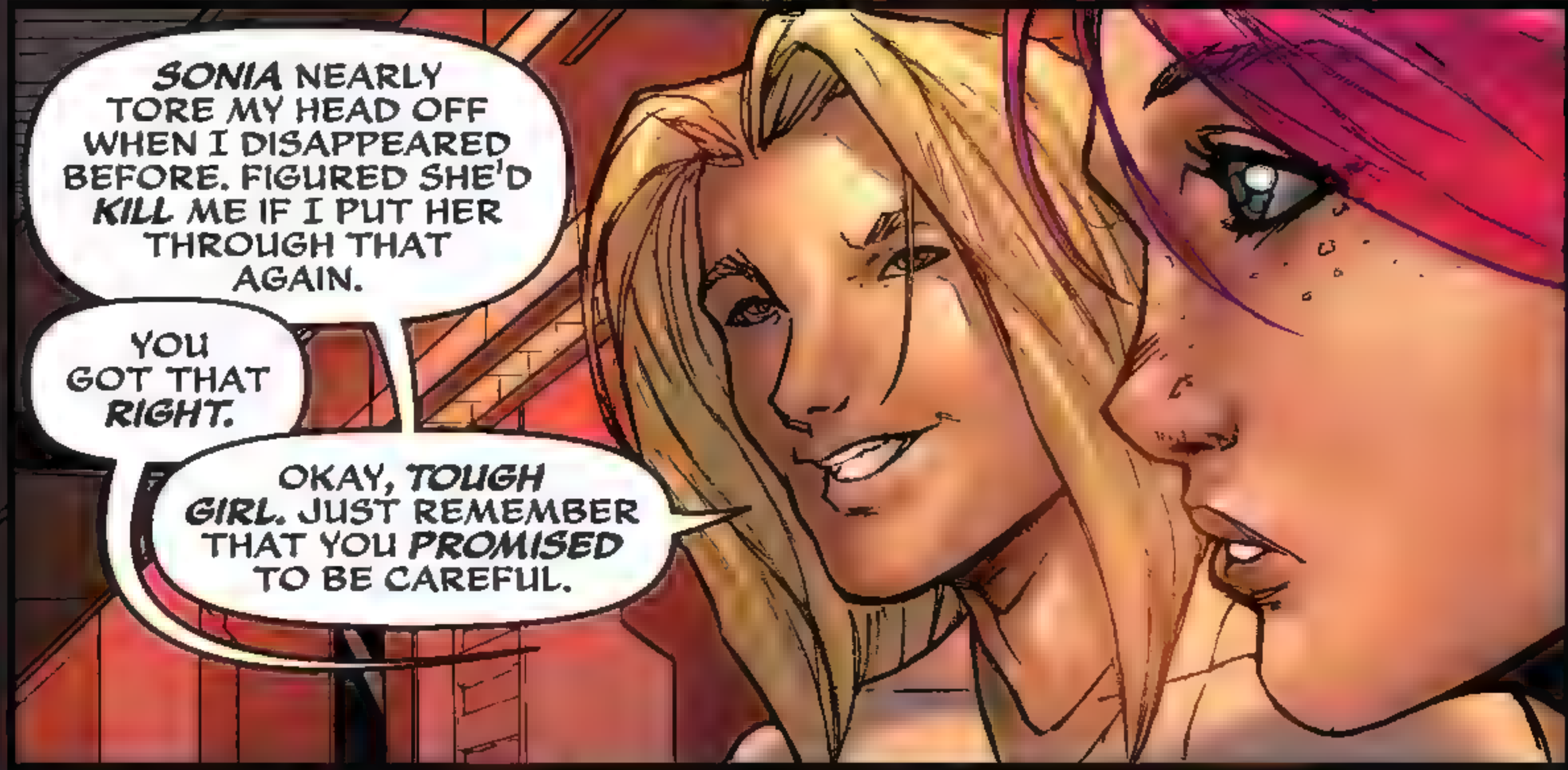
I OWE HER
THAT MUCH.



HELL, I OWE HER EVERYTHING.

GLAD YOU ASKED FOR HELP THIS TIME AROUND, MAL. INSTEAD OF RUNNING OFF BY YOURSELF.

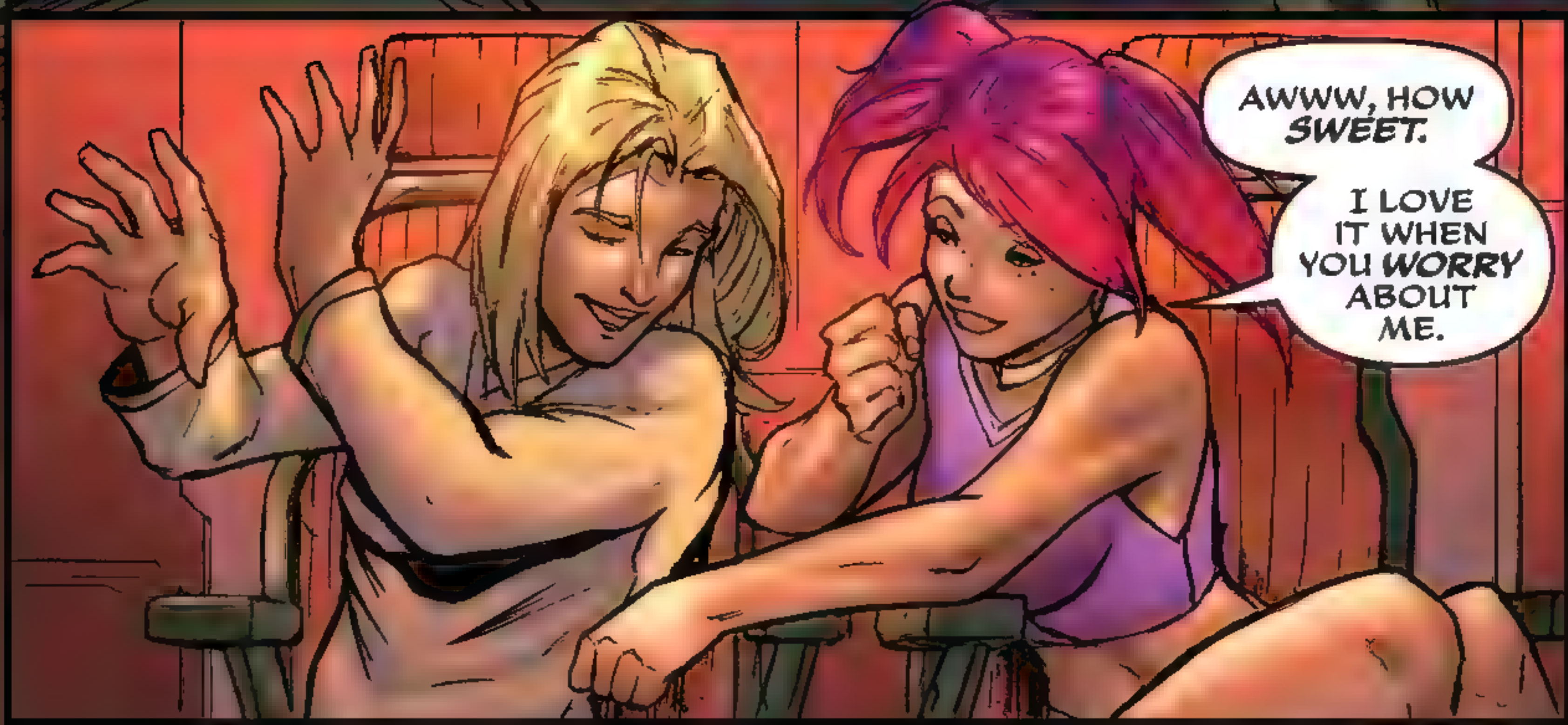
JUST THINKING OF MY SAFETY, **BENOIST**.



SONIA NEARLY TORE MY HEAD OFF WHEN I DISAPPEARED BEFORE. FIGURED SHE'D KILL ME IF I PUT HER THROUGH THAT AGAIN.

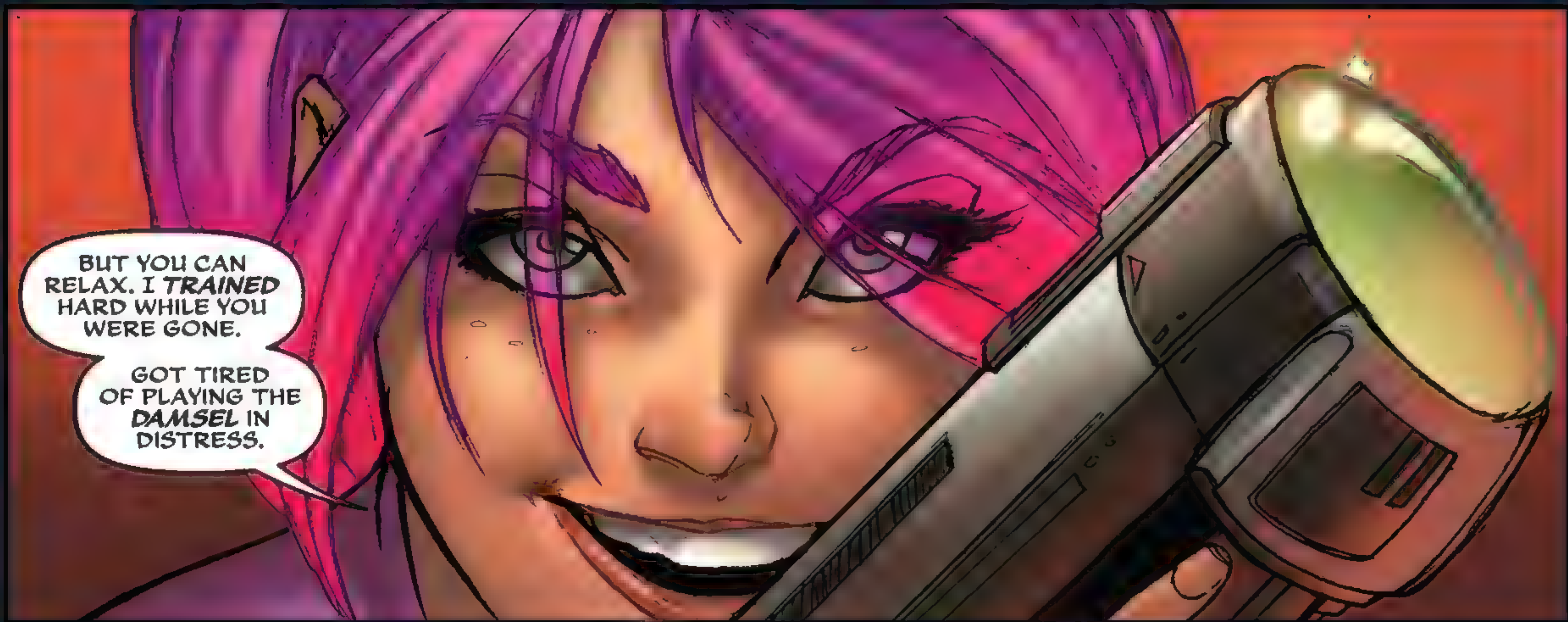
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.

OKAY, TOUGH GIRL. JUST REMEMBER THAT YOU **PROMISED** TO BE CAREFUL.



AWWW, HOW SWEET.

I LOVE IT WHEN YOU **WORRY** ABOUT ME.



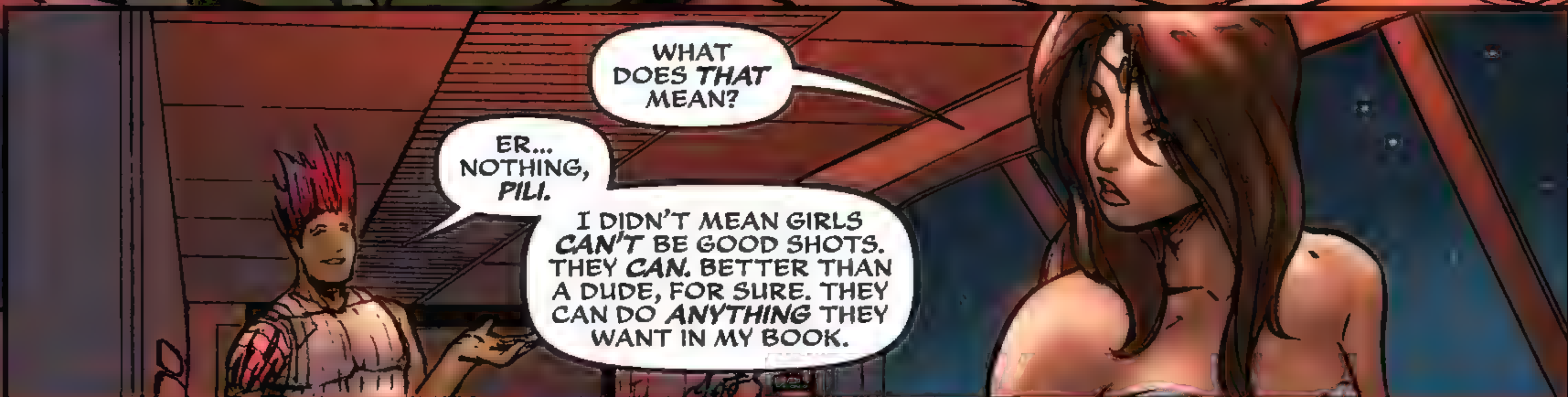
BUT YOU CAN
RELAX. I **TRAINED**
HARD WHILE YOU
WERE GONE.

GOT TIRED
OF PLAYING THE
DAMSEL IN
DISTRESS.



SHE'S A GOOD **SHOT**,
MAL. I CAN ATTEST
TO THAT.

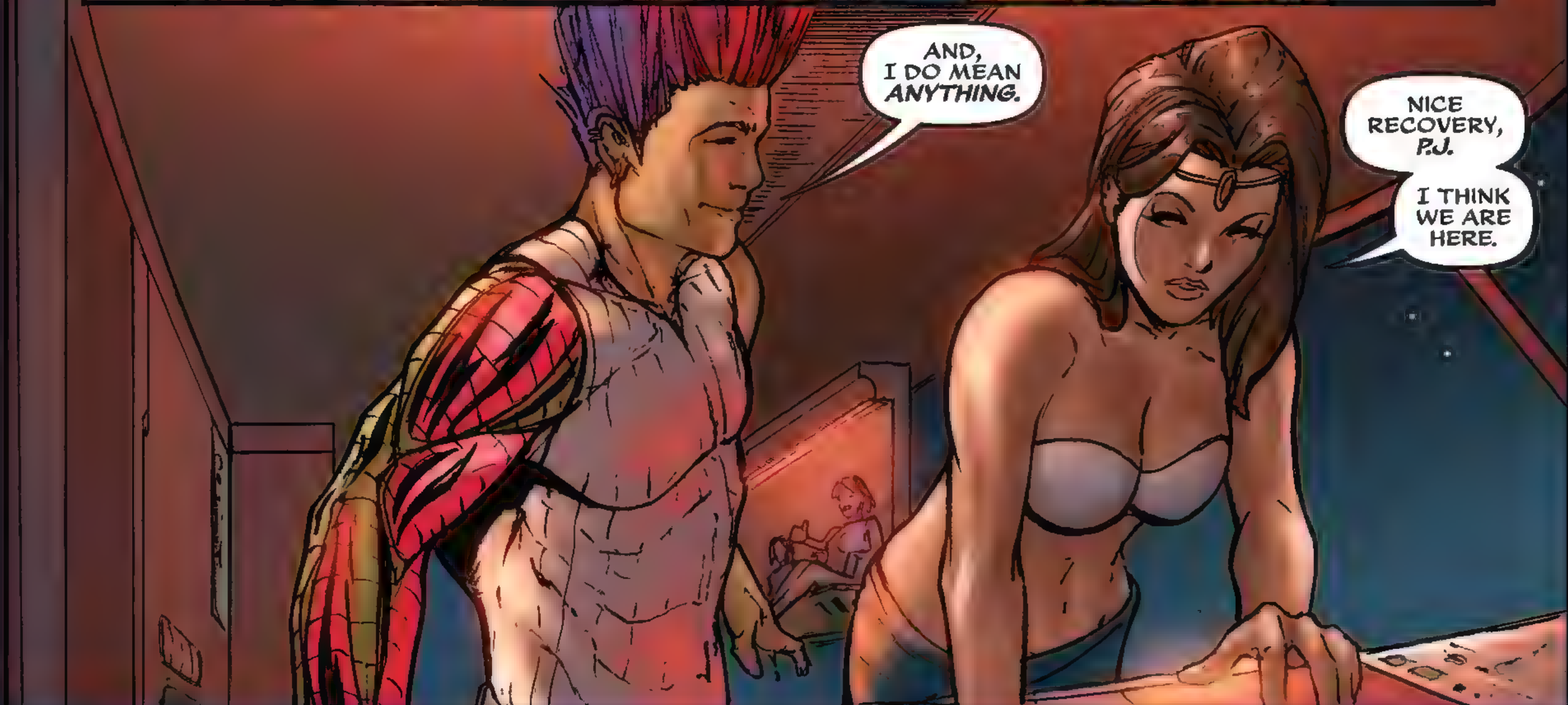
YEAH.
FOR A
GIRL.



WHAT
DOES **THAT**
MEAN?

ER...
NOTHING,
PILI.

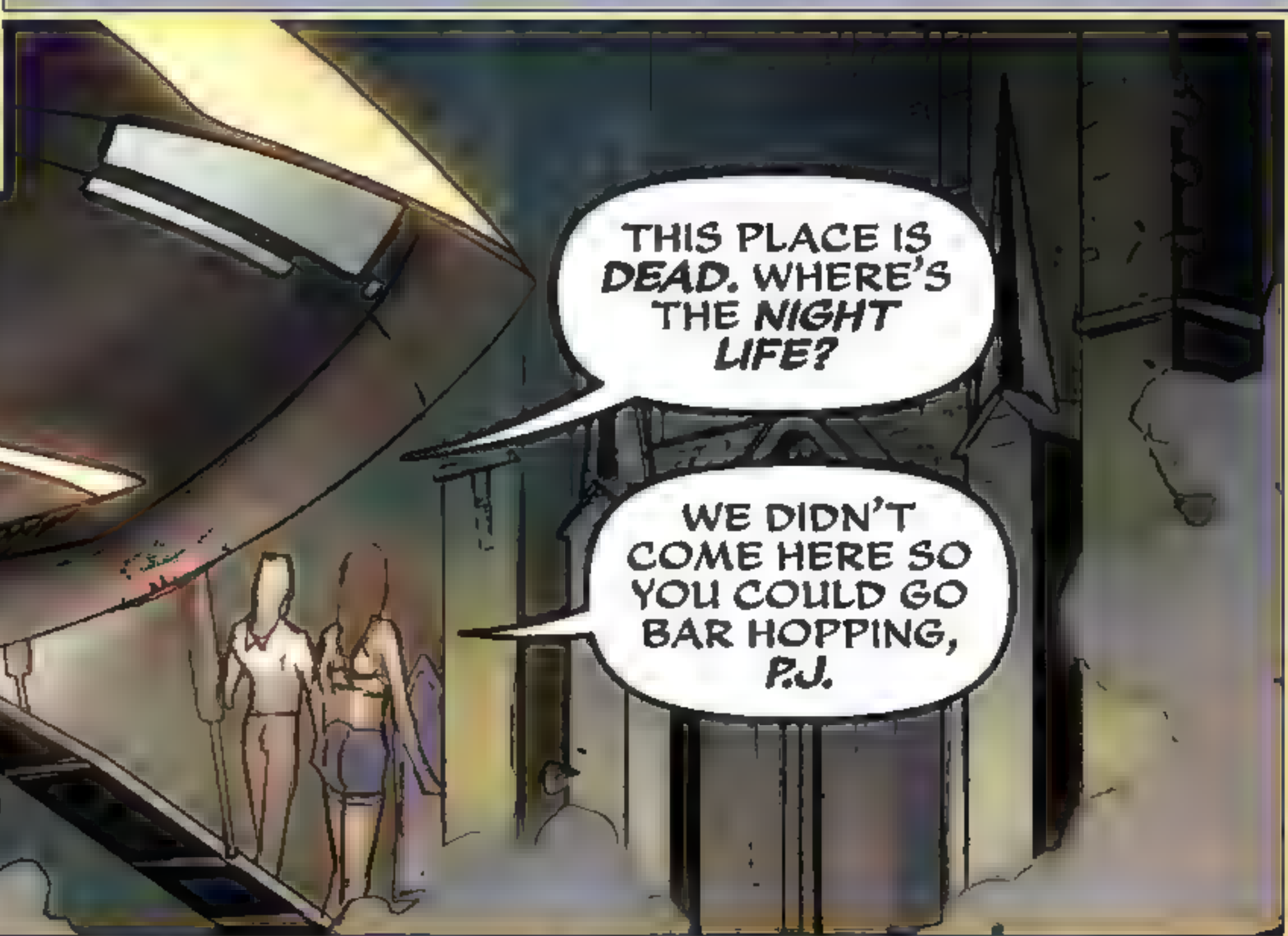
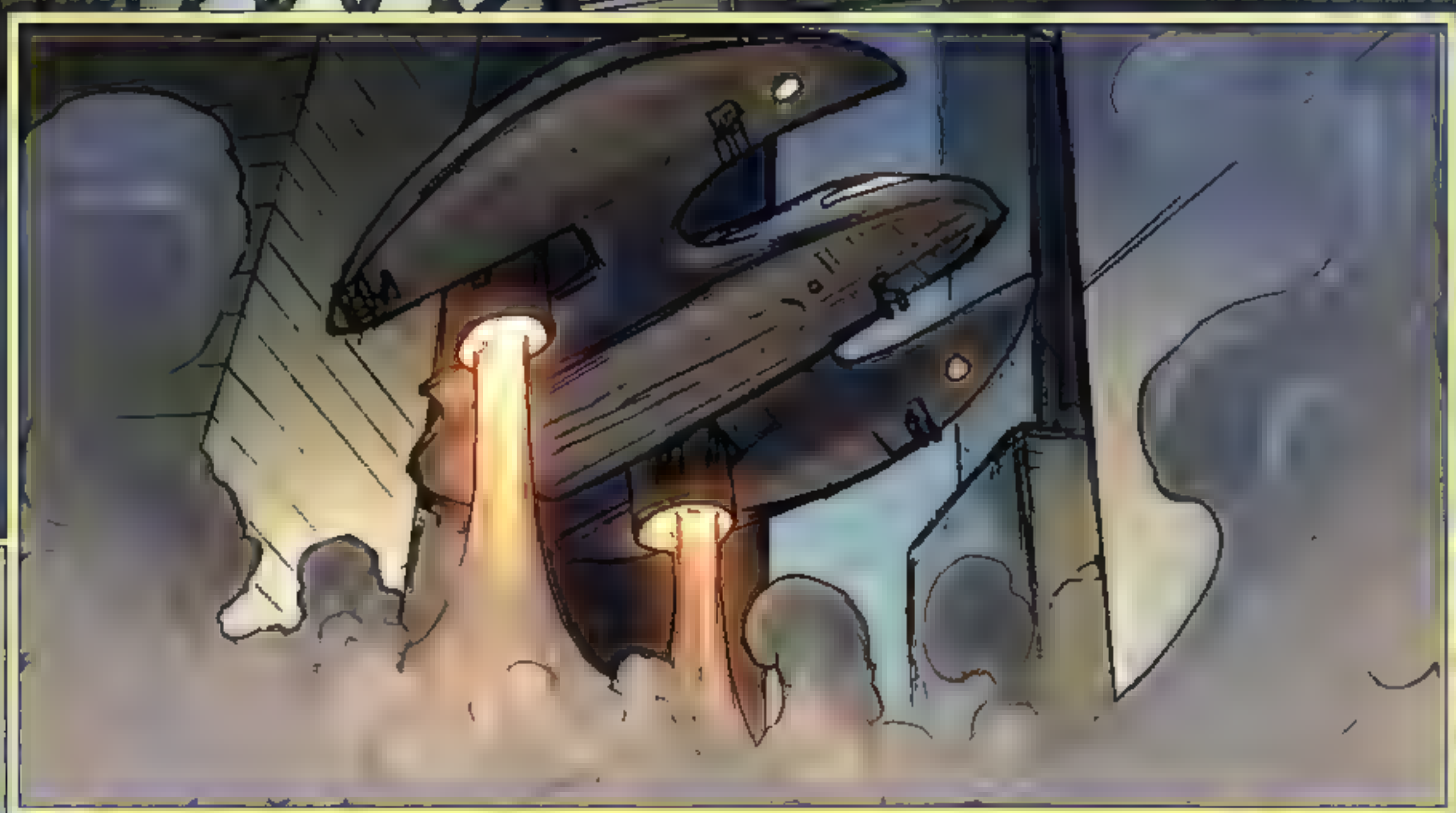
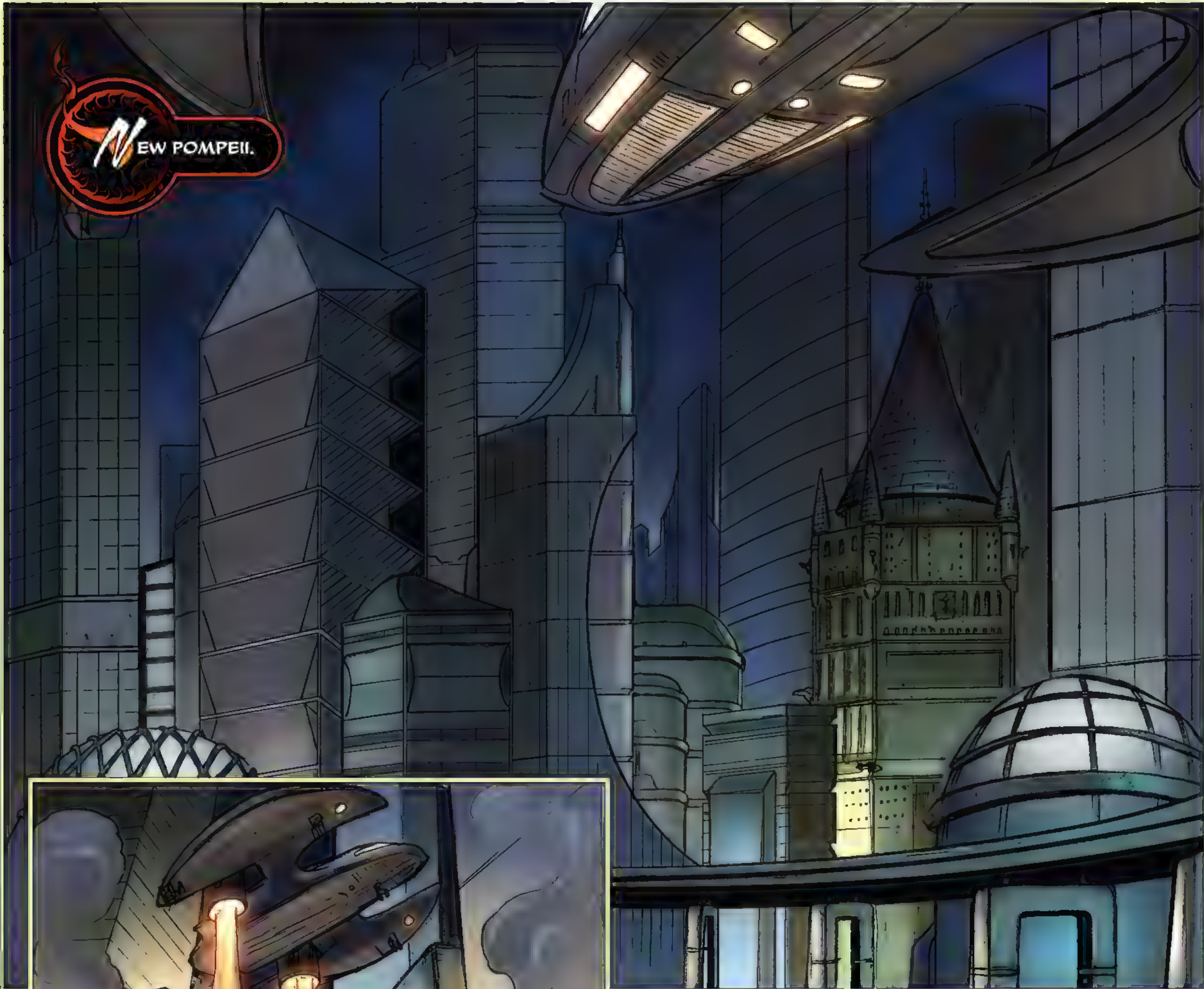
I DIDN'T MEAN **GIRLS**
CAN'T BE GOOD SHOTS.
THEY **CAN**. BETTER THAN
A DUDE, FOR SURE. THEY
CAN DO **ANYTHING** THEY
WANT IN MY BOOK.



AND,
I DO MEAN
ANYTHING.

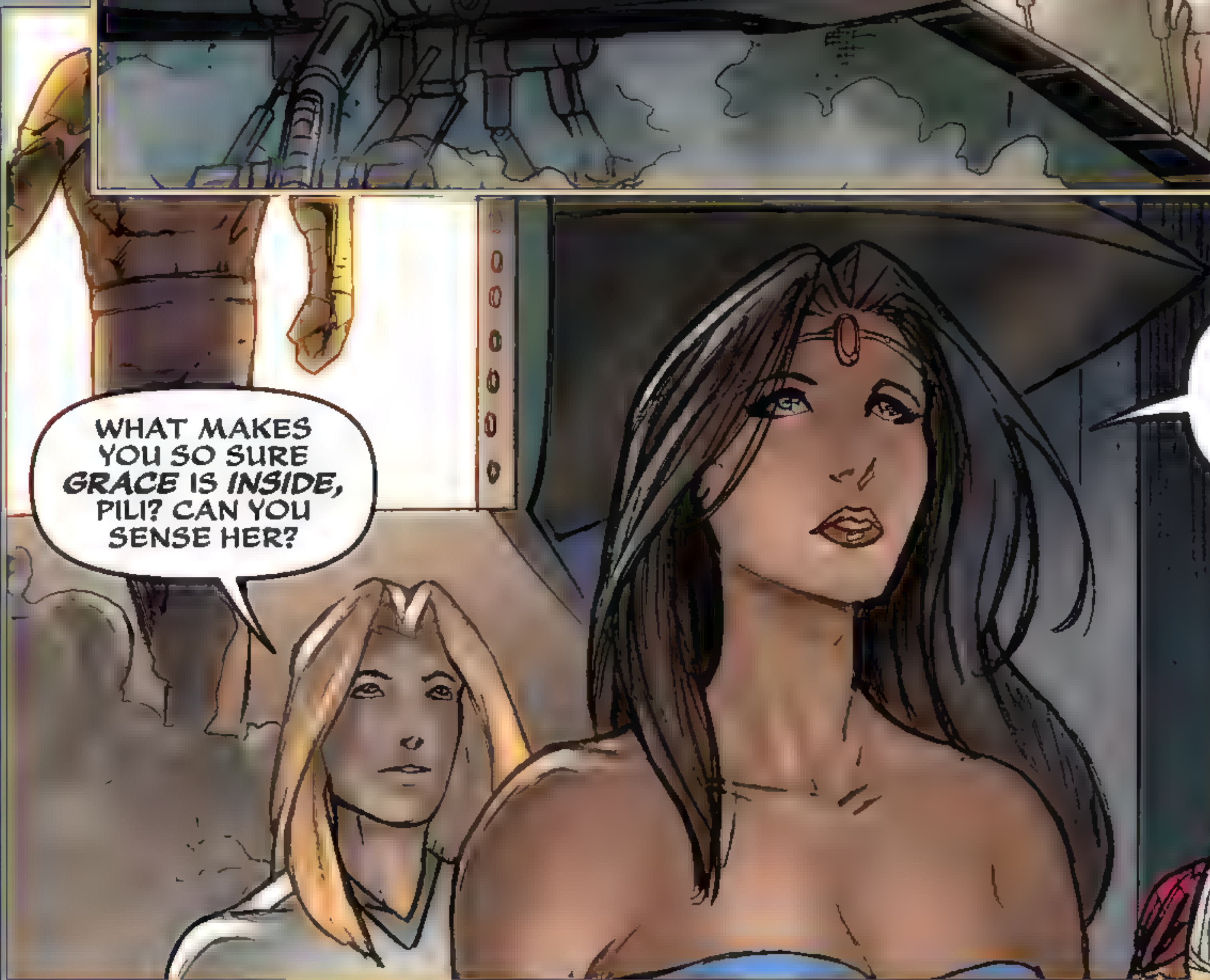
NICE
RECOVERY,
P.J.

I THINK
WE ARE
HERE.



THIS PLACE IS DEAD. WHERE'S THE NIGHT LIFE?

WE DIDN'T COME HERE SO YOU COULD GO BAR HOPPING, P.J.

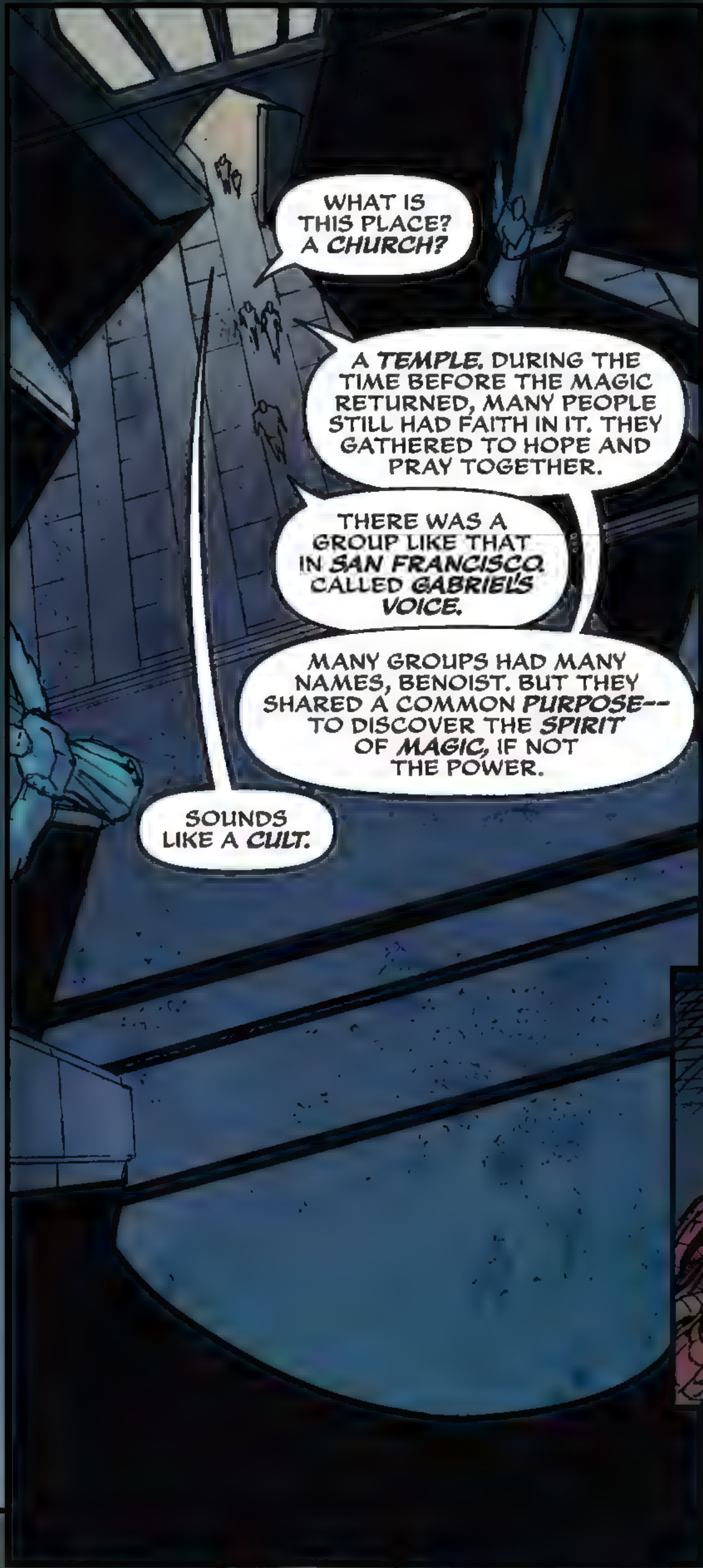


WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE GRACE IS INSIDE, PILI? CAN YOU SENSE HER?

NO. BUT WHEN WE SAW IMAGES OF HER IN THE FIRE, I SAW SOMETHING ELSE.

THIS TOWER.





WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
A CHURCH?

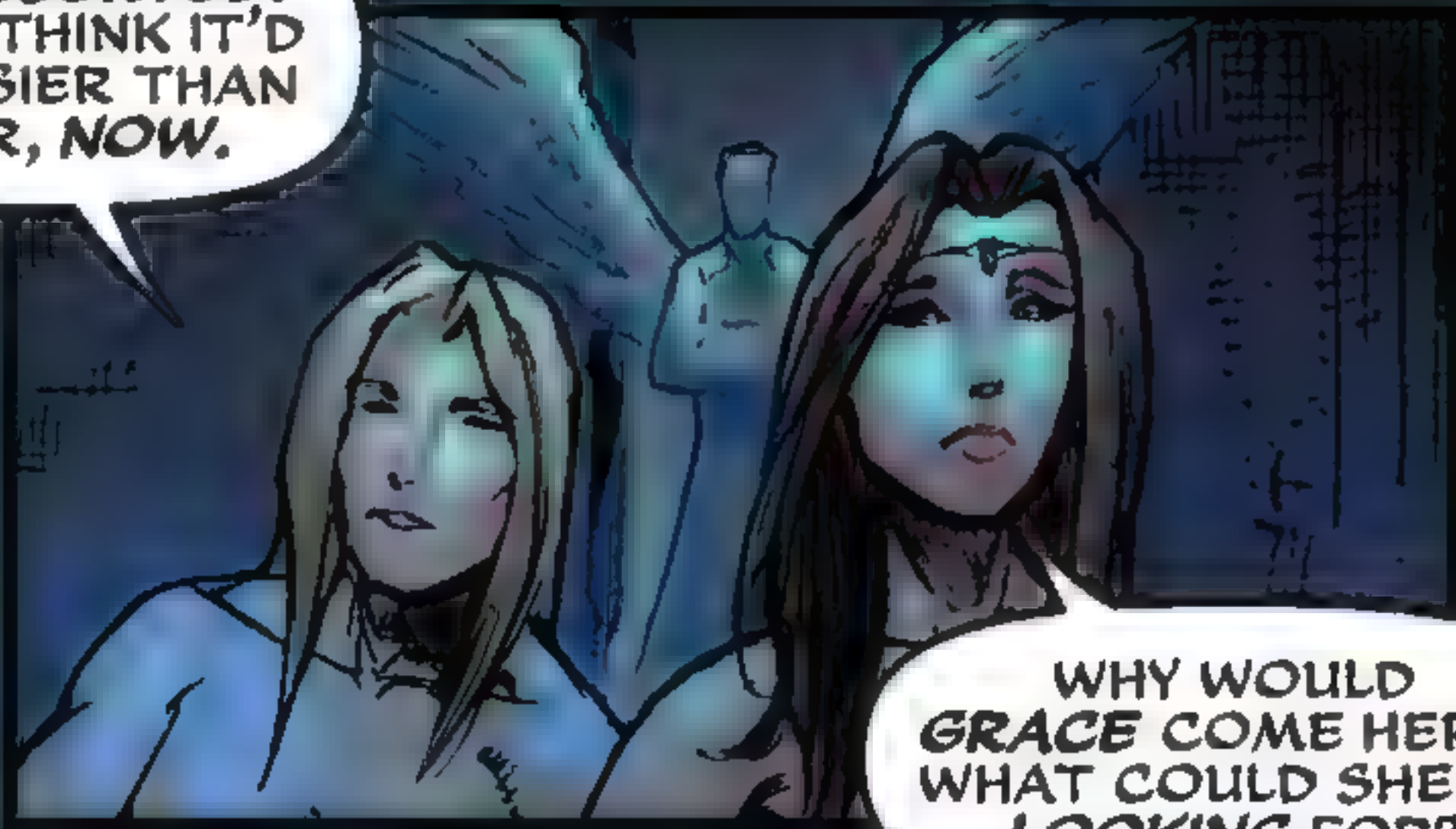
A TEMPLE. DURING THE TIME BEFORE THE MAGIC RETURNED, MANY PEOPLE STILL HAD FAITH IN IT. THEY GATHERED TO HOPE AND PRAY TOGETHER.

THERE WAS A GROUP LIKE THAT IN SAN FRANCISCO. CALLED GABRIEL'S VOICE.

MANY GROUPS HAD MANY NAMES, BENOIST. BUT THEY SHARED A COMMON PURPOSE-- TO DISCOVER THE SPIRIT OF MAGIC, IF NOT THE POWER.

SOUNDS LIKE A CULT.

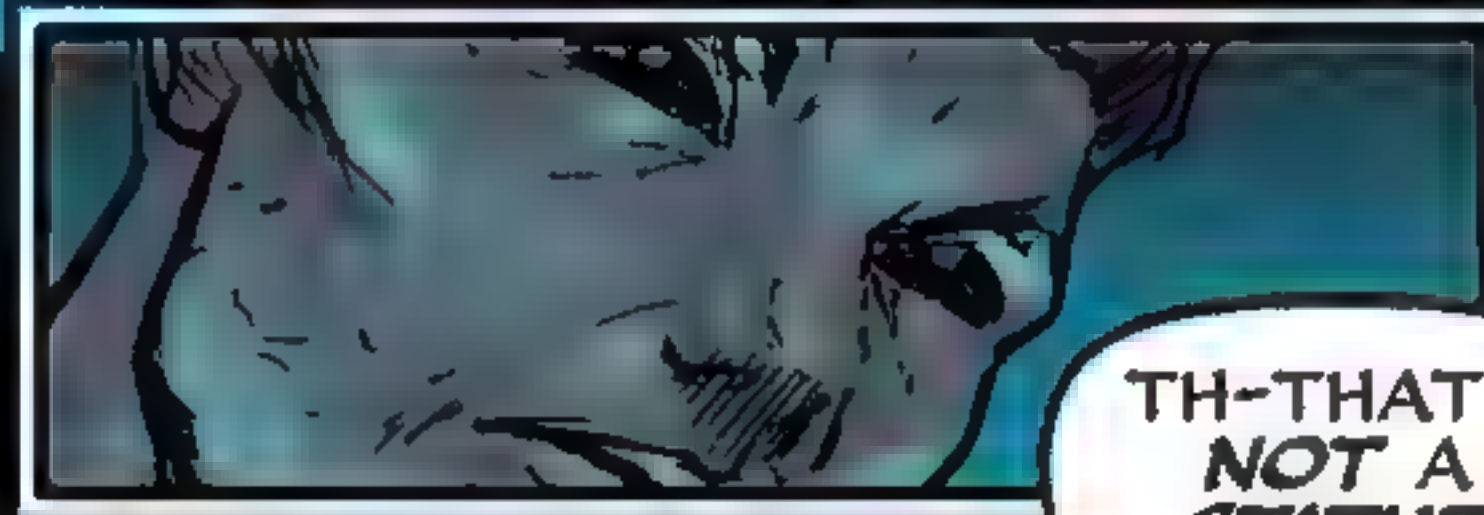
IT'S DESERTED. YOU'D THINK IT'D BE BUSIER THAN EVER, NOW.



WHY WOULD GRACE COME HERE? WHAT COULD SHE BE LOOKING FOR?



IT'S GOT THAT EVERLANDS VIBE. BUT THEIR STATUES ARE LAME. I MEAN, WHO IS THIS GUY SUPPOSED TO BE?



TH-THAT'S NOT A STATUE.

IT'S A PERSON.



IS HE DEAD?

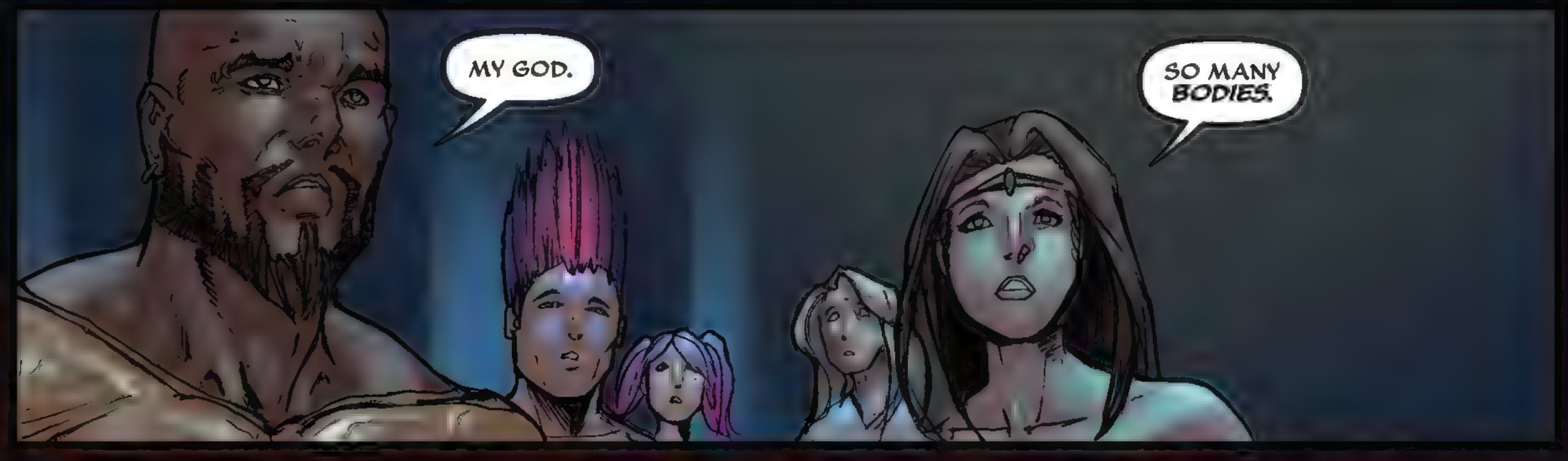


ALIVE. DEAD.

DOES IT REALLY MATTER?

THEIR *FATE*
REMAINS THE
SAME.





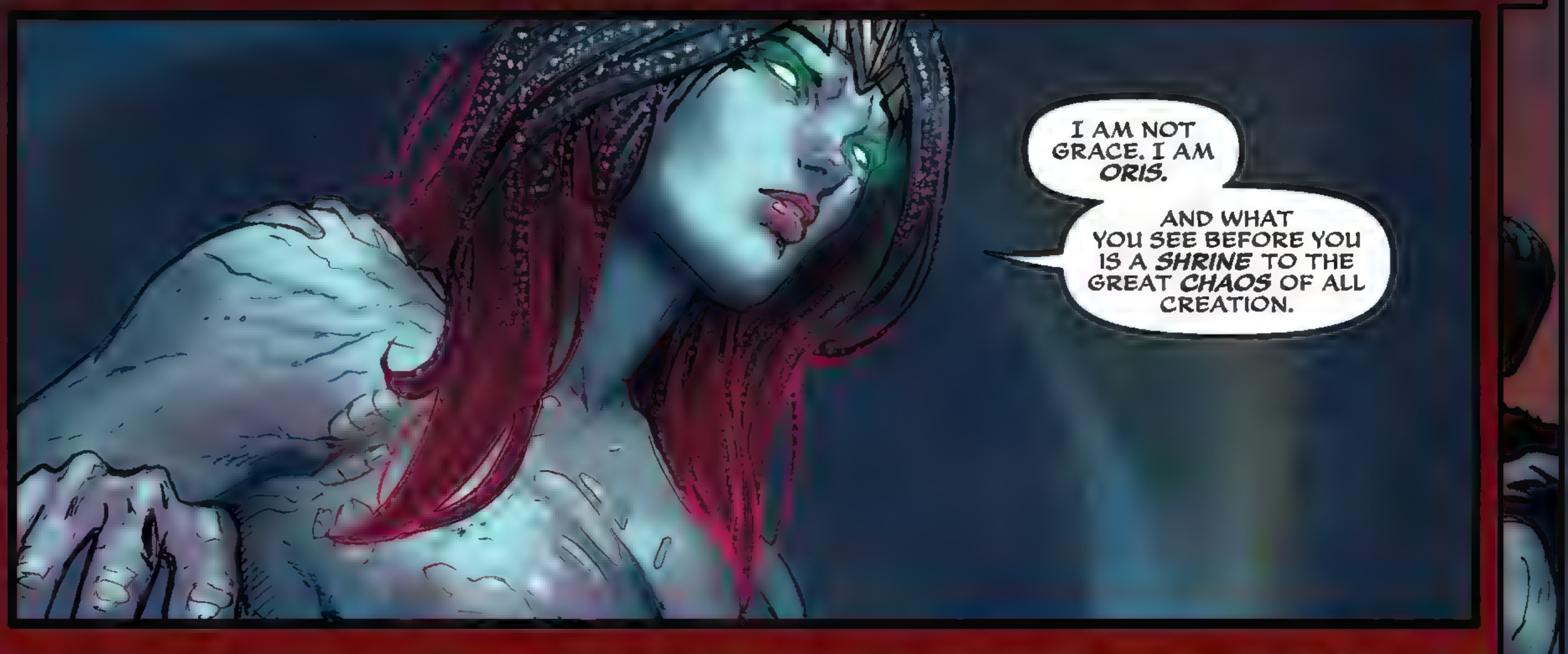
MY GOD.

SO MANY BODIES.



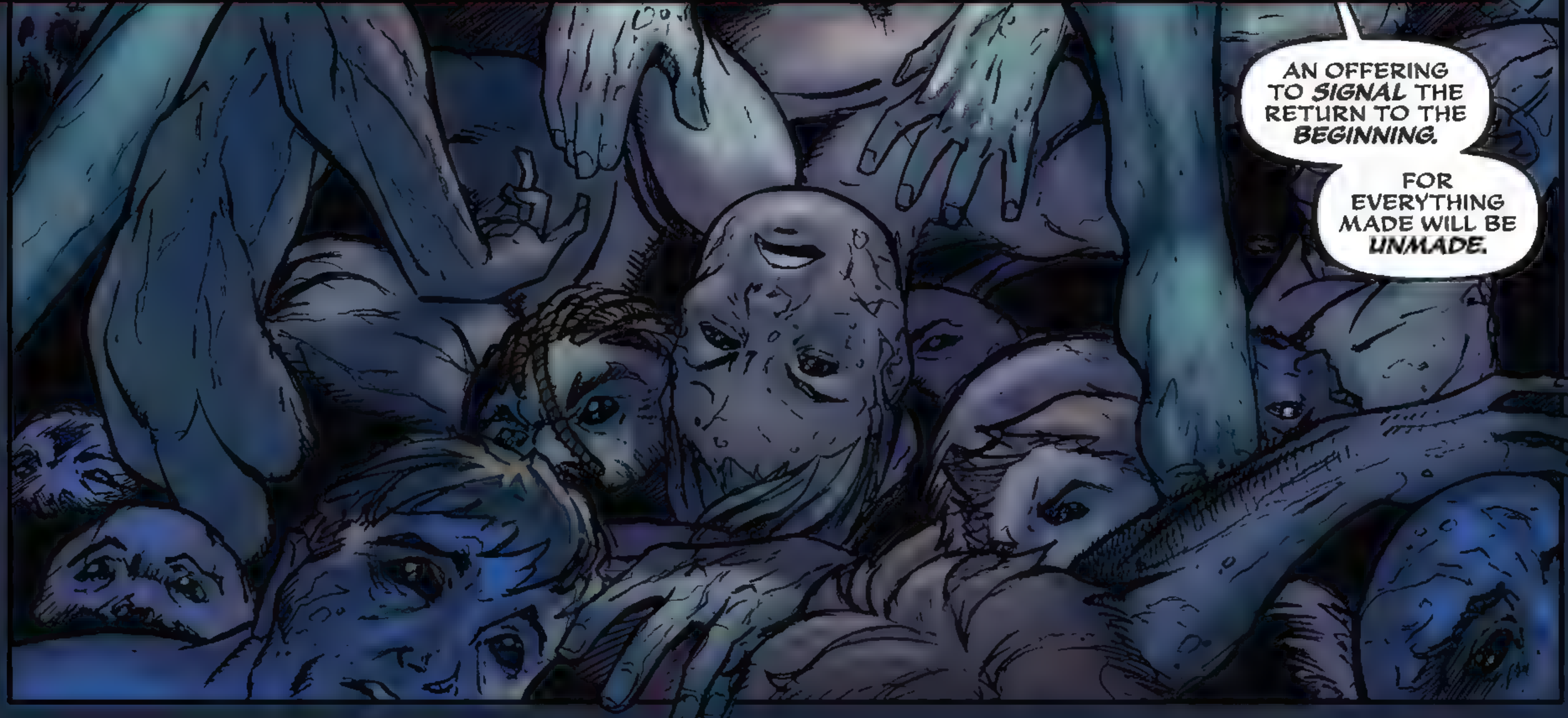
GRACE? WHAT HAPPENED?

WHAT DID YOU DO?



I AM NOT GRACE. I AM ORIS.

AND WHAT YOU SEE BEFORE YOU IS A *SHRINE* TO THE GREAT *CHAOS* OF ALL CREATION.



AN OFFERING TO *SIGNAL* THE RETURN TO THE *BEGINNING*.

FOR EVERYTHING MADE WILL BE *UNMADE*.



THE TIME HAS
COME FOR THE
WORLD TO EAT
ITSELF.

GRAAHH!

RRAGGH!

AAWRRR!

HRRRGHH!

RROOHHR!

ERRRGHH!

STICK
TOGETHER
EVERYONE.

JESUS!

WE DON'T
WANT TO HURT
THEM.

THEY ARE
PRISONERS, LIKE
GRACE.

I FEAR
THEIR MINDS ARE
TOO FAR GONE,
MALIKAI.

FOR THEM,
I THINK DEATH
WOULD BE A
BLESSING.



GRACE! THIS
ISN'T YOU. IT'S
THE **CHAOS**. YOU
NEED TO **FIGHT**
IT, LIKE I DID.

THERE IS
NO FIGHTING
WHAT I AM.

THEY'RE
EVERYWHERE!
WHAT DO WE
DO?

ALL WE CAN
DO. TAKE ONE
AT A TIME.

OR FIVE IF
POSSIBLE.

NNNNN...

LET GO.



I SAID--
HANDS
OFF!

EW. GROSS.

UM... I
COULD USE A
LITTLE HELP
HERE.

GUYS?!

MAL!



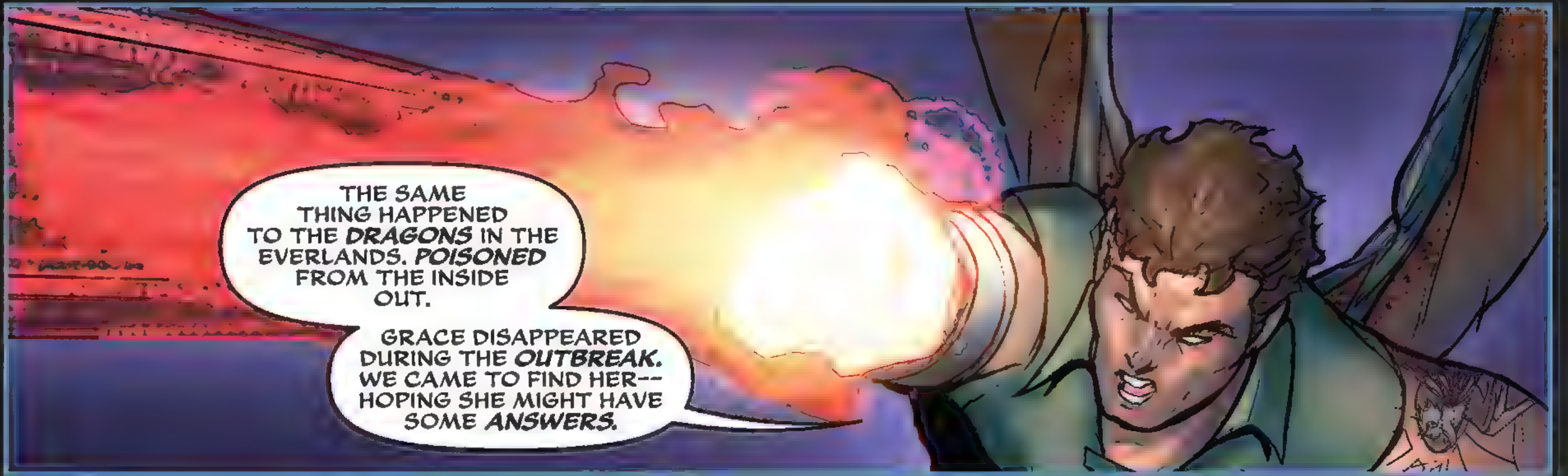
YOU'RE
WELCOME.

YEAH...
THANKS.



REN! DEX!
WHAT ARE YOU
GUYS DOING
HERE?

WITH CHAOS AS PURE
AND TERRIBLE AS THIS,
IT IS NOT DIFFICULT
TO FIND.



THE SAME
THING HAPPENED
TO THE **DRAGONS** IN THE
EVERLANDS. **POISONED**
FROM THE INSIDE
OUT.

GRACE DISAPPEARED
DURING THE **OUTBREAK**.
WE CAME TO FIND HER---
HOPING SHE MIGHT HAVE
SOME **ANSWERS**.



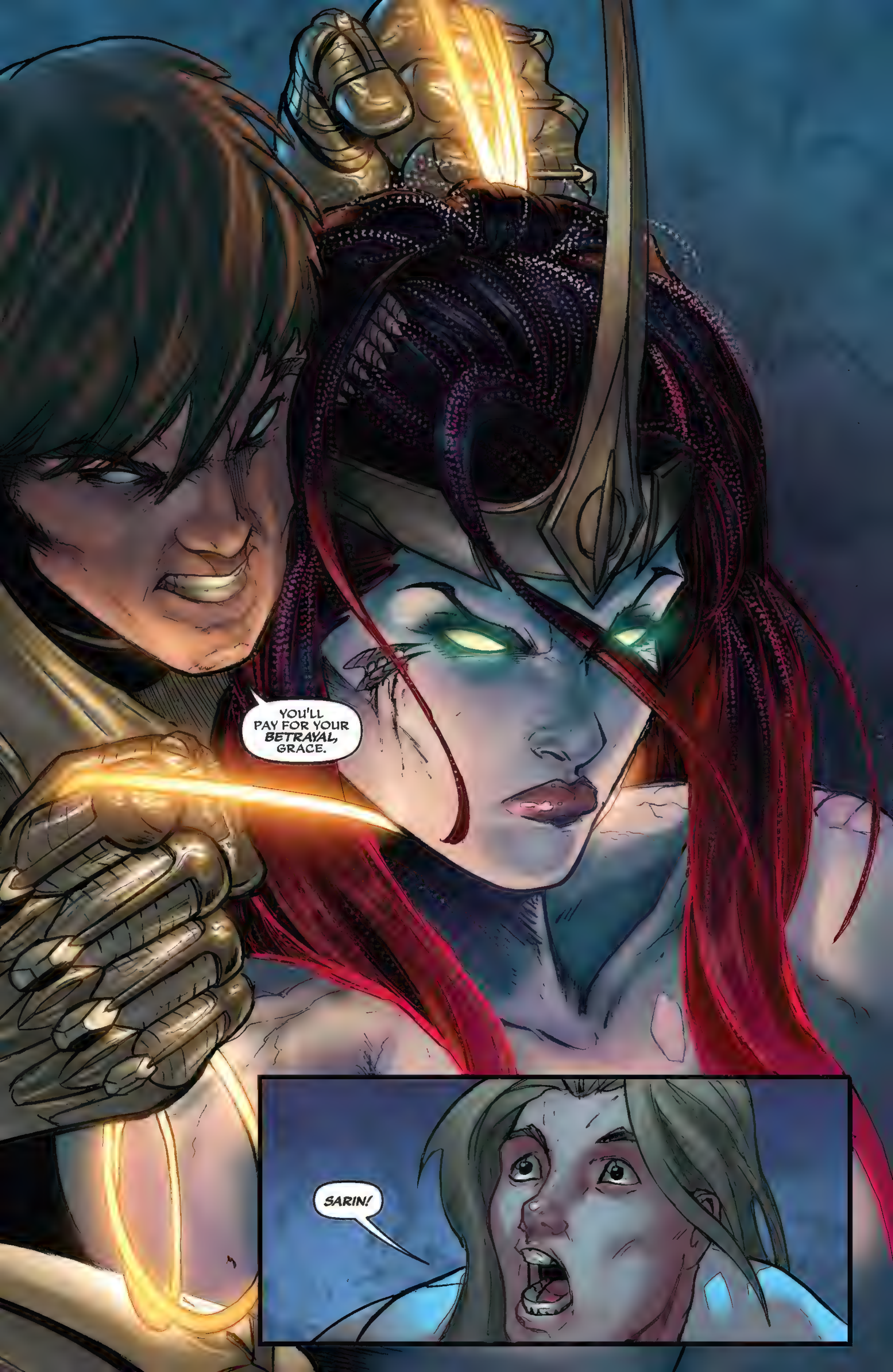
YOU MIGHT
NOT LIKE WHAT SHE
HAS TO SAY.

IS THAT...
GRACE?

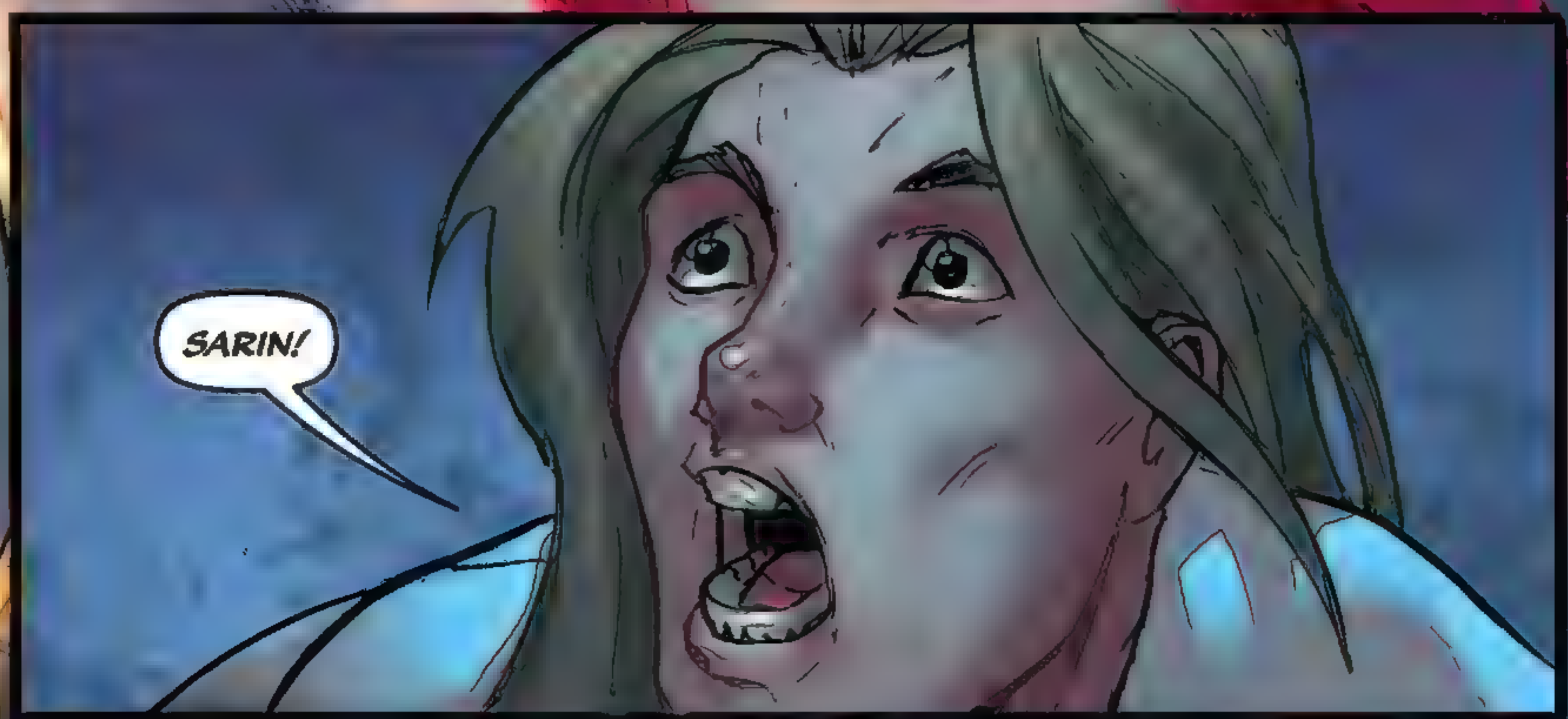
YES. AND
NO. SOMETHING'S
TAKEN A HOLD OF
HER-- **BODY** AND
SOUL.

HOPEFULLY,
TOGETHER WE CAN
SAVE HER.

I WISH I
COULD SAY
WE **ALL** HAD
THE SAME
GOAL.



YOU'LL
PAY FOR YOUR
BETRAYAL,
GRACE.



SARIN!



MY
NAME IS
ORIS!

AND AS FOR
ANY BETRAYAL--
MINE IS THE ONE
TRUE PATH.

NNNNN...

NAME'S MEAN
LITTLE TO ME.
BUT TITLES DO--
MINE IS KING.



REMINDS
ME OF A VIDEO
GAME I USED
TO PLAY.

YEAH, BUT
NO SUCH THING AS
EXTRA LIVES HERE.
KEEP SHOOTING.



STAY
CLOSE TO
ME, PILLI.



TEAGUE, LUC. LET'S
MOW THROUGH THESE
PAWNS. I WANT TO GET
BACK TO THE MAIN
ATTRACTION.



SARIN IS HALF-
RIGHT. THEY
ARE PAWNS.



BUT SO IS
GRACE.



GRACE!
YOU'RE **STRONGER**
THAN THIS.

WE'VE GOT THE
POWER TO DECIDE
WHICH **URGE** WILL
CONTROL US.

IF IT
WASN'T FOR
YOU, I WOULD
HAVE **NEVER** BEEN
ABLE TO BRING
THE **MAGIC**
BACK.

I WOULD
HAVE **FAILED**.

YOU
CAN DO IT,
TOO.

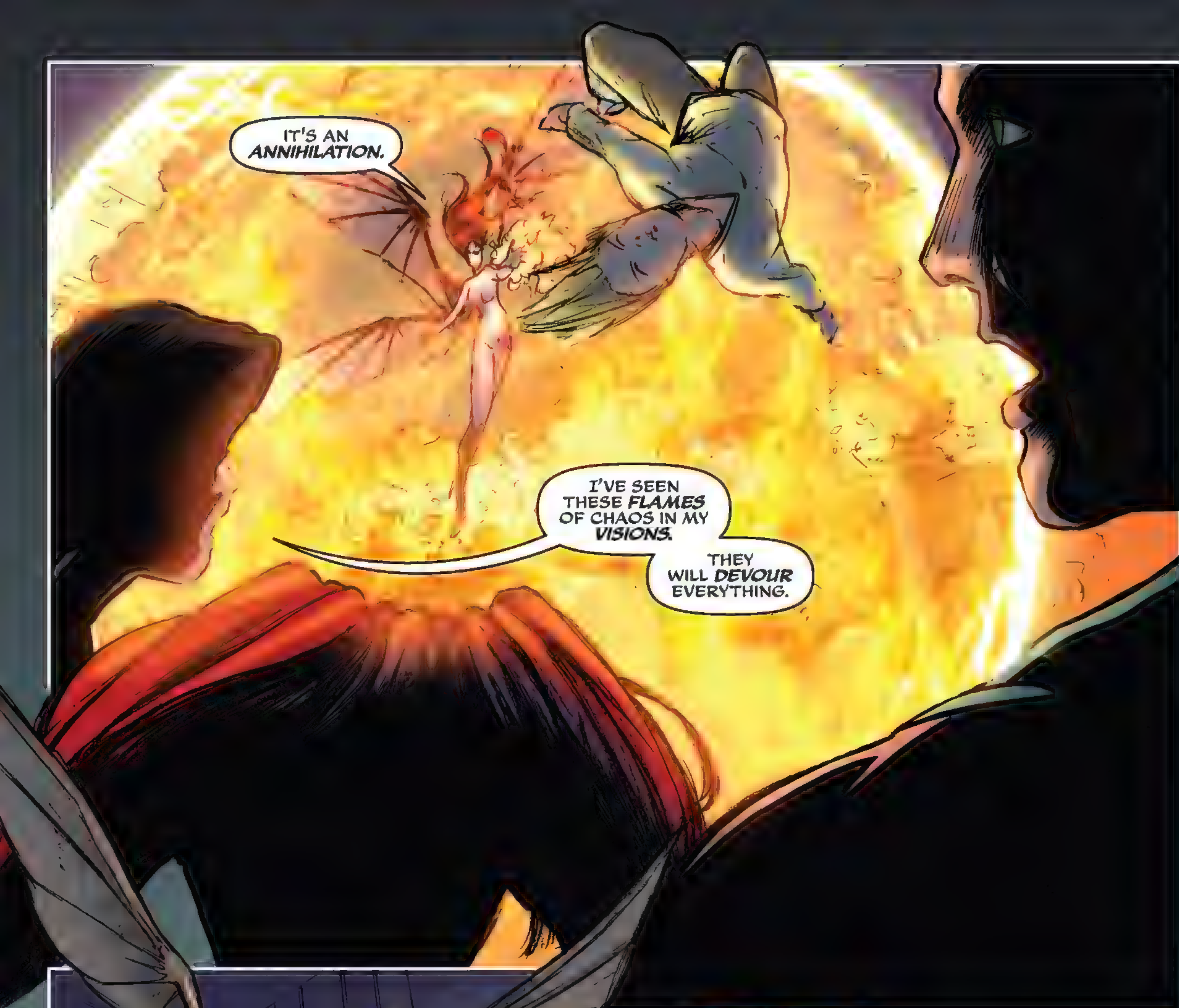


I KNOW
THE LIFE YOUR
SPIRIT HAS
ENDURED.

YOUR **UNIQUE**
SOUL. HOW VERY
PRECIOUS YOU
ARE.



BUT, THIS IS
NO **REBIRTH** THAT
IS COMING.



IT'S AN
ANNIHILATION.

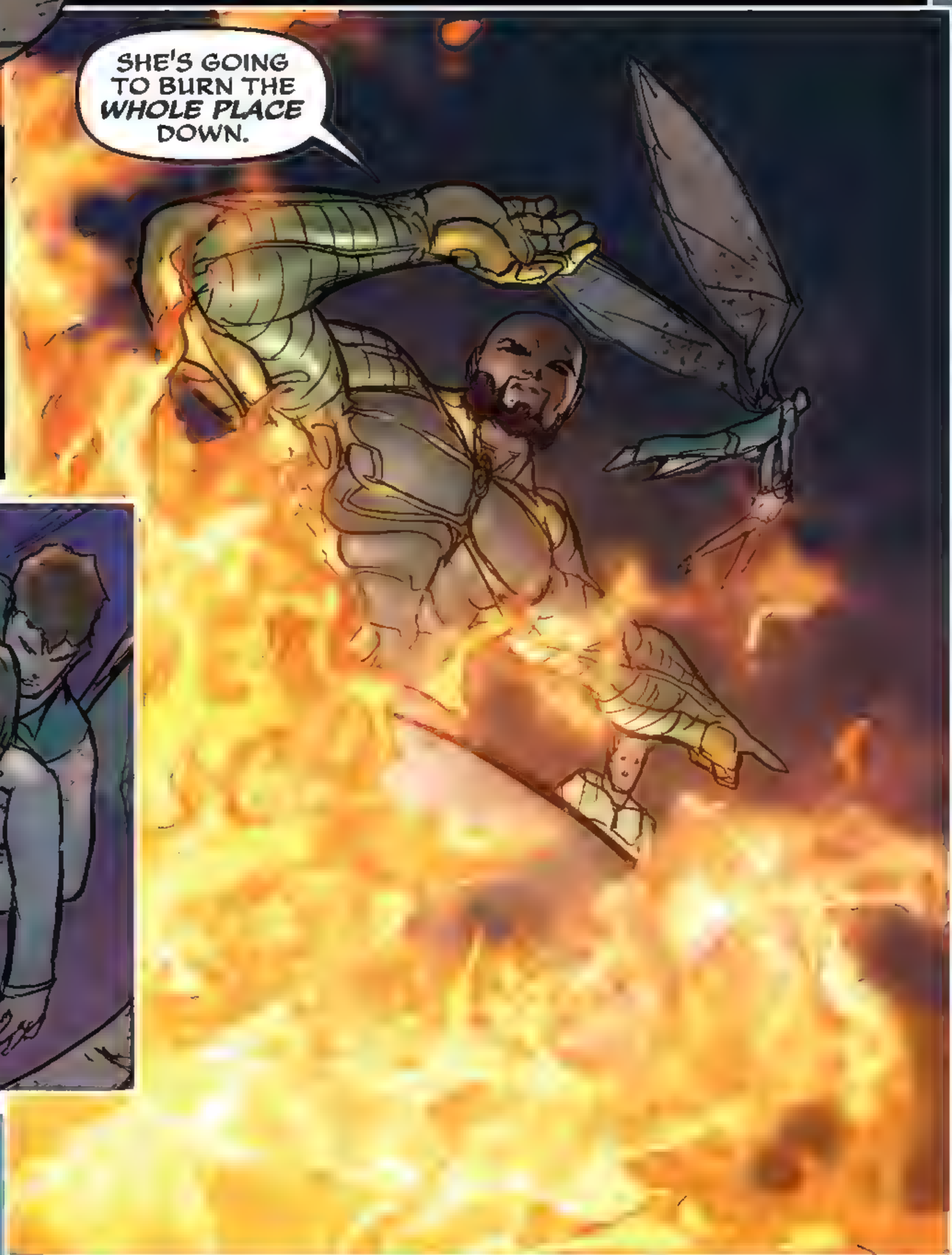
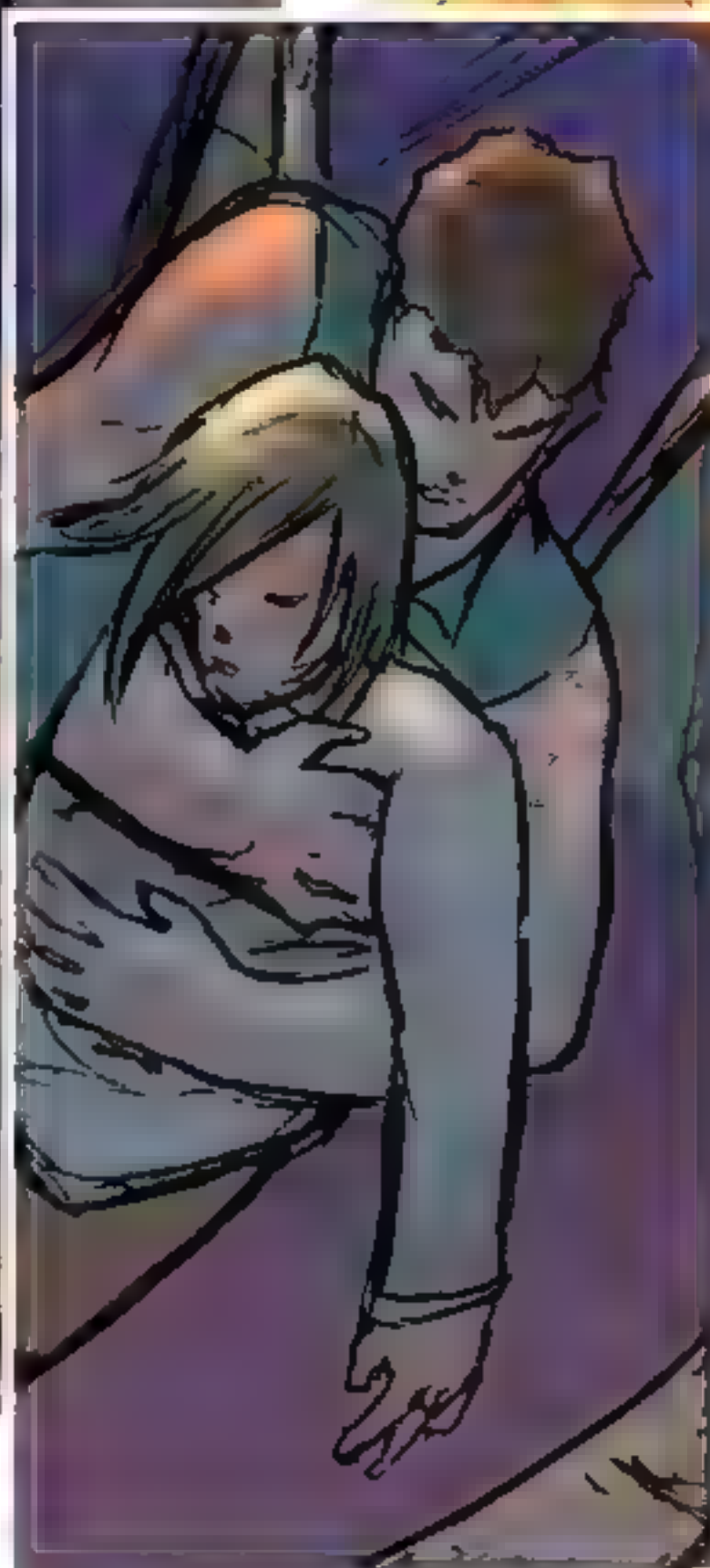
I'VE SEEN
THESE **FLAMES**
OF CHAOS IN MY
VISIONS.

THEY
WILL **DEVOUR**
EVERYTHING.



MAL!

DON'T
WORRY, SONIA.
I GOT HIM.



SHE'S GOING
TO BURN THE
WHOLE PLACE
DOWN.



RUN!

GUESS SHE LEARNED THE HARD WAY. THE LIGHT THAT BURNS TWICE AS BRIGHT BURNS HALF AS LONG.

ONCE THIS BLAZE CONSUMES HER, WE CAN TAKE GRACE'S CHARRED REMAINS BACK WITH US.

NO! WE CAN'T LET HER DIE IN THERE. SHE'S NOT RESPONSIBLE. IT'S NOT HER.

EASY, MALIKAI.

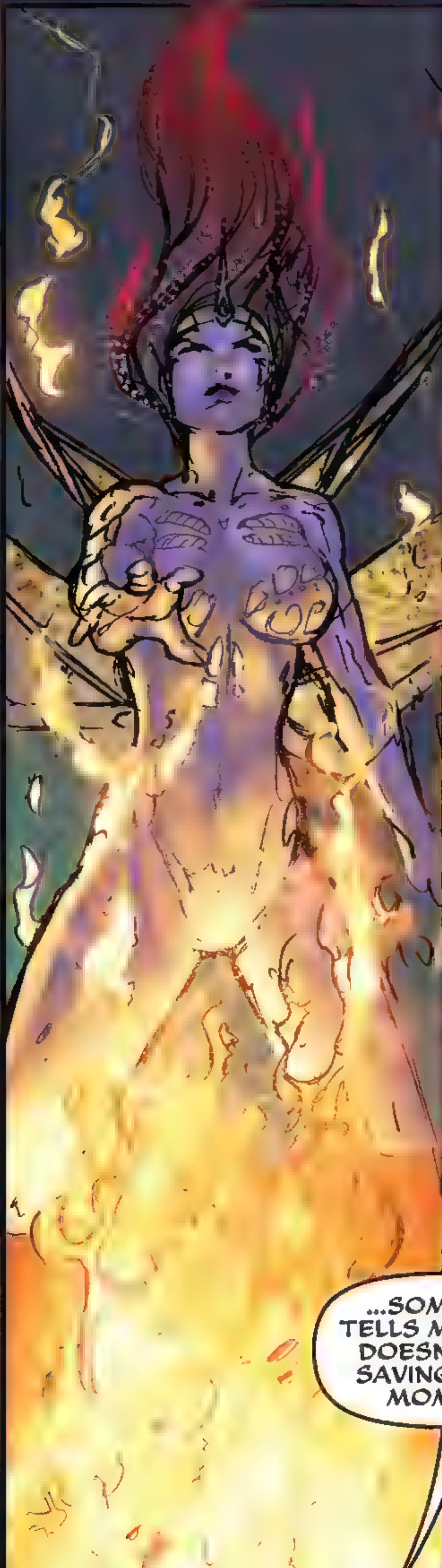
LET ME GO. I'LL BE FINE.

IT IS NO ORDINARY FIRE. IT WILL CONSUME YOU AS WELL.



SHE RISKED EVERYTHING FOR ME. I HAVE TO SAVE HER.

UM, MAL...



...SOMETHING TELLS ME GRACE DOESN'T NEED SAVING AT THE MOMENT...



...BUT *WE*
MIGHT.

ASPEN
Vol. 4

#3

OF 9
COVER A

MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE™



MIKE
DEBAIRD
V.B.



Vol. 4

#3

OF 9

COVER B

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™



VOLUME FOUR



BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE

plot—
J.T. KRUL & FRANK MASTROMAURO

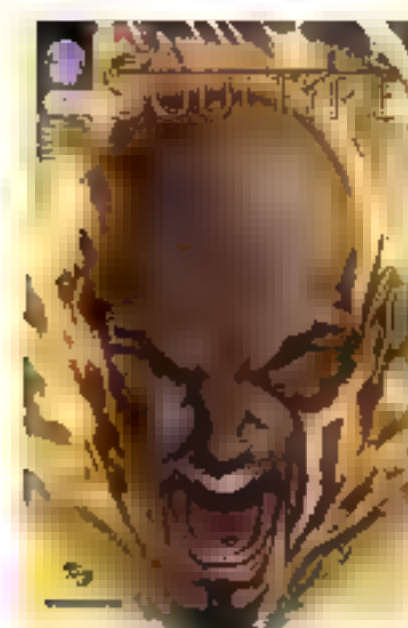
story—
J.T. KRUL

pencils—
MIKE DeBALFO
JONATHAN MARKS (pgs 16-17)

colors—
NEI RUFFINO

letters—
JOSH REED

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ, FRANK MASTROMAURO
Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD
Lettering Font Designed by: DREAMER DESIGN



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**MIKE DeBALFO &
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ELIZABETH TORQUE

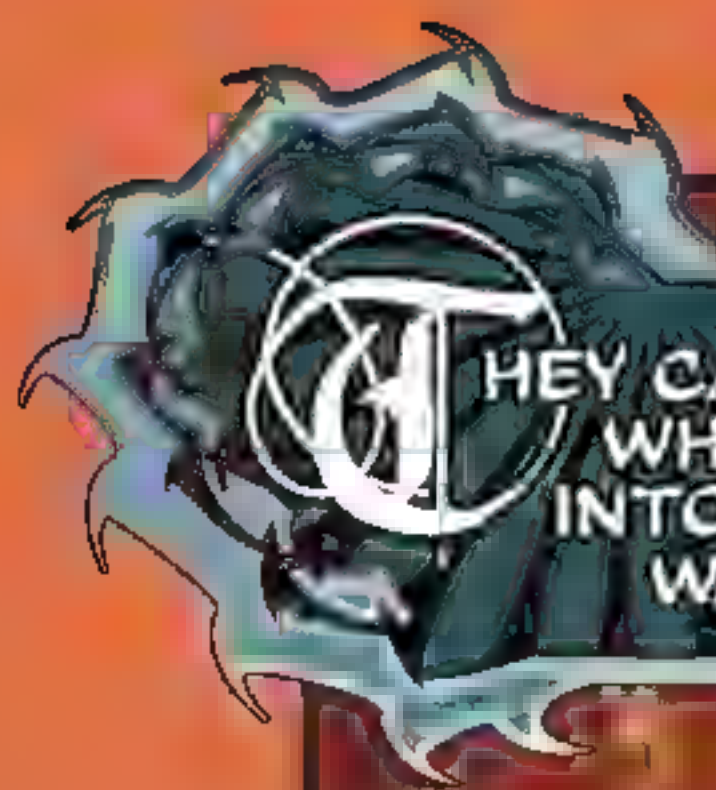
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THE STORY SO FAR...

Malikai and the group arrived in New Pompeii to try to stop the chaos-consumed Grace and her possessed followers from destroying the entire city, yet the odds were overwhelmingly stacked against them. Luckily, Sarin and his tech gurus arrived to lend a helping hand, however Grace was not to be deterred. Consumed by the flames of Chaos and unwavering in her determination, she summoned an enormous magical fire dragon, capable of leveling everything in its path...



HEY CALL IT A **BAPTISM BY FIRE** WHEN YOU ARE SIMPLY THROWN INTO THE THICK OF THINGS WITHOUT WARNING OR PREPARATION.



THAT'S WHAT IT FELT LIKE WHEN I **DISCOVERED** THE WORLD OF **MAGIC**.

RAINIER'S MECHANICAL BEAST PROVIDED THE FIRE.



BUT, THE MAN HIMSELF WAS THE **MONSTER** BEHIND THE EPIC DESTRUCTION.



HIS MOTIVATION WAS UNDERSTANDABLE, EVEN IF IT WAS **CRAZY**. HE SOUGHT TO CONTROL EVERYTHING.

RAINIER WANTED TO **RULE** THE WORLD.

A massive, fiery dragon-like creature, composed of intense orange and yellow flames, dominates the upper half of the frame. It is breathing a powerful stream of fire towards a city below. The city features several tall buildings, including a prominent one with a pointed, gothic-style top on the left and a modern skyscraper on the right. The fire is depicted with dynamic, jagged lines, suggesting intense heat and movement.

BUT THIS IS
NOTHING BUT
PURE CHAOS.

An inset panel in the bottom left corner shows a close-up of a woman with pale skin and a crown. She has a concerned expression and is holding a small, glowing orange flame in her right hand.

AND THIS TIME, IT'S
GRACE. SHE'S UNDER
A KIND OF SPELL.

An inset panel in the bottom center shows a street-level view of the city being destroyed. Buildings are on fire, and thick smoke fills the air. The perspective is from a low angle, looking down the street.

POSSESSED OR
SOMETHING.

An inset panel in the bottom right corner shows a group of people running through a street. In the foreground, a man in a light green shirt is running towards the left. Behind him, other people are running away from a large fire that is consuming a building on the right. A large, clenched fist is visible on the far right edge of the panel.

INTENT TO SIMPLY
DESTROY.



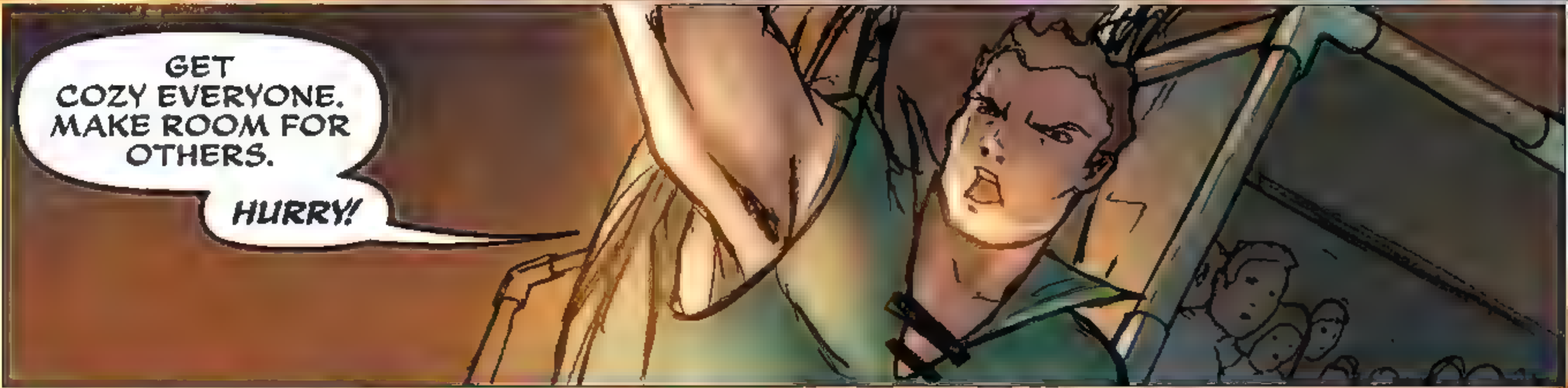
LUCKILY, THERE ARE
OTHER FORCES AT
WORK AS WELL.

AND I'M NOT
ALONE.

DEX, I
CAN HOLD OFF
THESE FLAMES.
GET THE PEOPLE
SECURE.

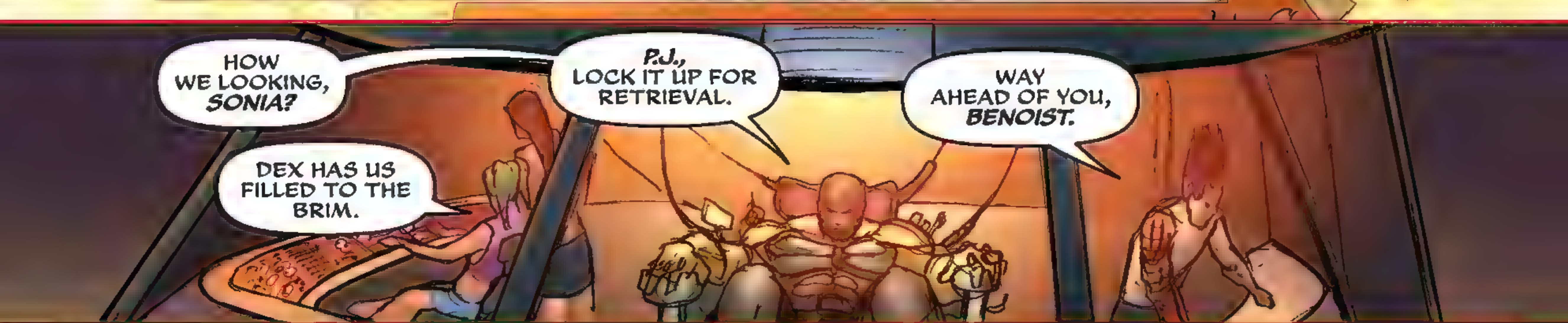


WILL DO,
REN.



GET
COZY EVERYONE.
MAKE ROOM FOR
OTHERS.

HURRY!

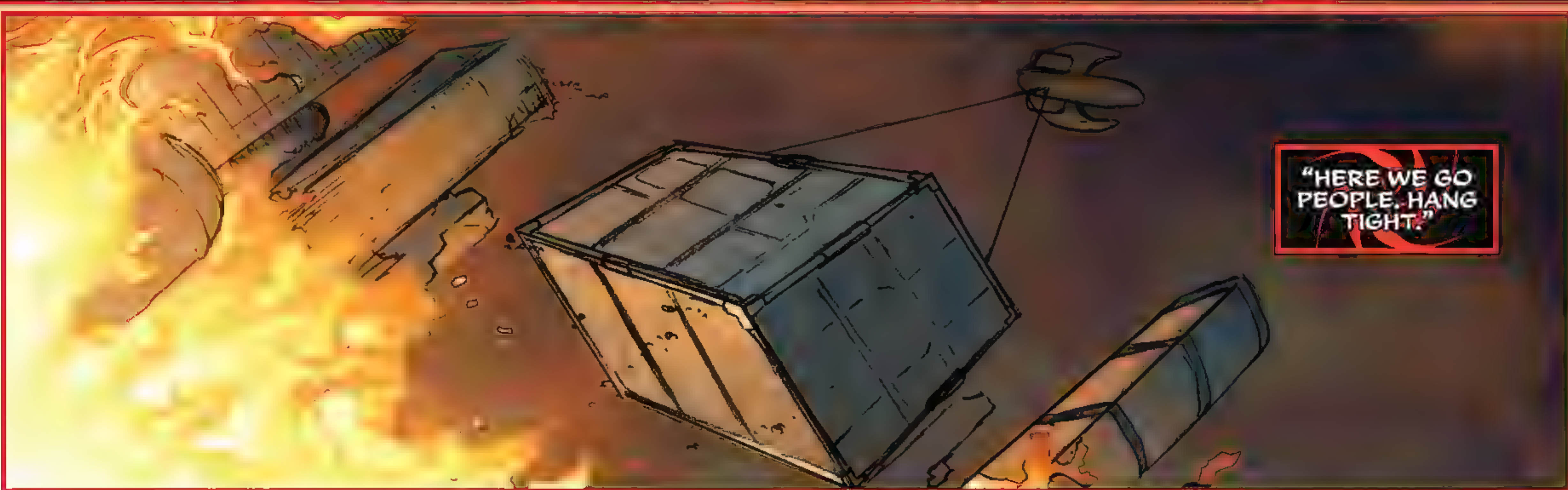


HOW
WE LOOKING,
SONIA?

P.J.,
LOCK IT UP FOR
RETRIEVAL.

WAY
AHEAD OF YOU,
BENOIST.

DEX HAS US
FILLED TO THE
BRIM.

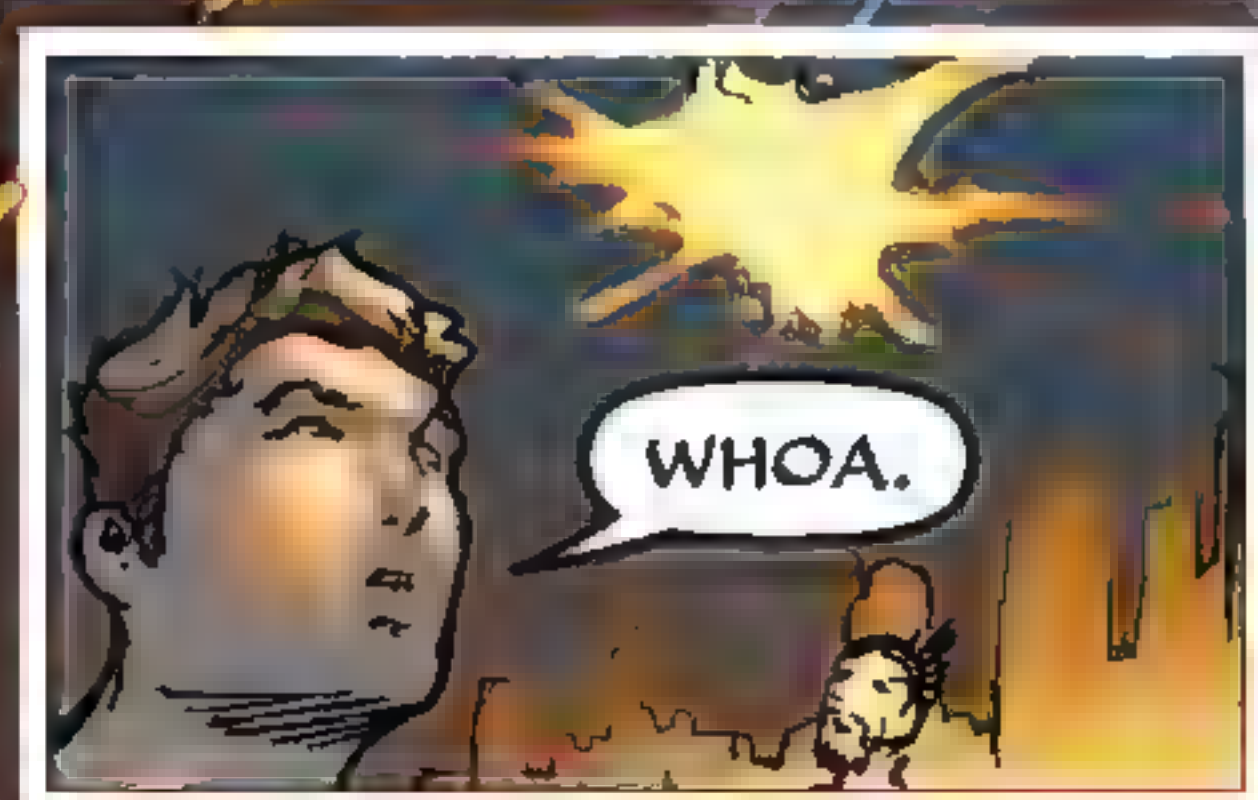


"HERE WE GO
PEOPLE. HANG
TIGHT."

HAVE TO LEAVE
THE RESCUING TO
THE OTHERS...



...WHILE I TRY
TO STOP THE
PROBLEM AT
THE SOURCE.



WHOA.

WHAT WAS
THAT???

IT'S
MALIKAI.

I CAN'T TELL.
SENSORS AREN'T
PICKING UP ANYTHING.
TOO MUCH ENERGY
INTERFERENCE.



"HE'S
TAKING THEM
ON ALONE."

YOU
CAN'T STOP
ME, BOY.

THAT'S FUNNY.
EVER SINCE WE
MET YOU'VE BEEN
TELLING ME I CAN
DO ANYTHING IF
I BELIEVE.

THAT
WASN'T ME.
THAT WAS
GRACE.

AND SHE
LIED.

COULD BE
JUST THAT YOU'RE
WRONG.

YOU SEEM
INTENT TO
EXPERIENCE THE
FULL FORCE OF
MY POWER.

AS LONG AS SHE'S
FOCUSED ON ME, AT
LEAST SHE WON'T BE
BURNING THE CITY.

PROBLEM
IS-- SHE'LL BE
TRYING TO FRY
ME INSTEAD.





JUST BECAUSE
THE MAGIC COURSES
THROUGH YOUR BODY,
YOU THINK YOU KNOW
THE **SECRETS** BEHIND
ALL CREATION?

YOU ARE
NOTHING TO THIS
UNIVERSE.

I AM THE
SAMUSARA. I
WAS THE **CATALYST**
FOR MAGIC'S
REACTION.

SO THE LIGHT
SWITCH THINKS
HE IS **SPECIAL**.
HOW **CUTE**.



STEP ASIDE,
MALIKAI.



I SHALL
HANDLE THIS
DEMON!

DAMMIT. SARIN
IS TAKING THEM
BACK TOWARD
THE CITY.

HAUL ASS,
LUC. I KNEW
THIS WAS A
BAD IDEA.

WHICH PART,
TEAGUE?

ALL OF
IT.

HURRY.
MAL IS IN
TROUBLE!

HE'S NOT THE
ONLY ONE. SARIN'S
BOYS GOT THE TECH
BUG LIKE ME, BUT THEY
AREN'T BUILT FOR
THIS KIND OF
ACTION.

P.J.--
TAKE THE
CONTROLS.
KEEP GETTING
PEOPLE TO
SAFETY.

WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

TO SAVE THOSE
TWO BEFORE THEY
BECOME BURNT
TOAST.

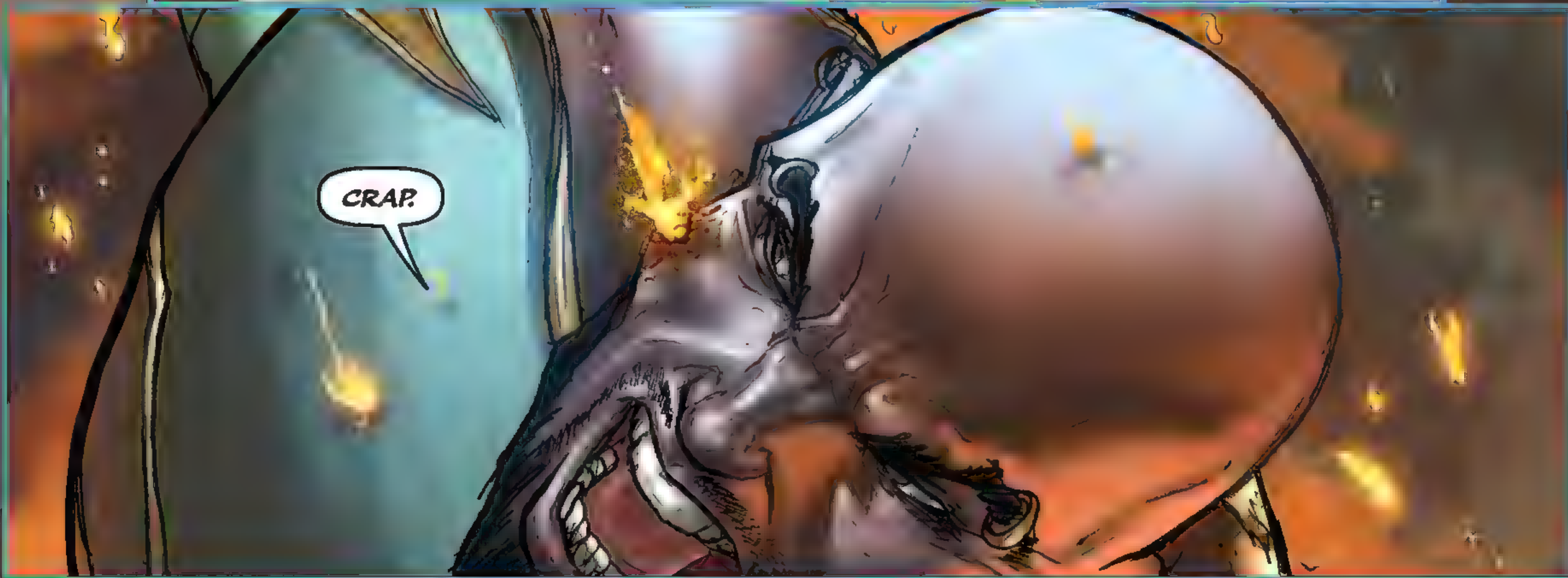
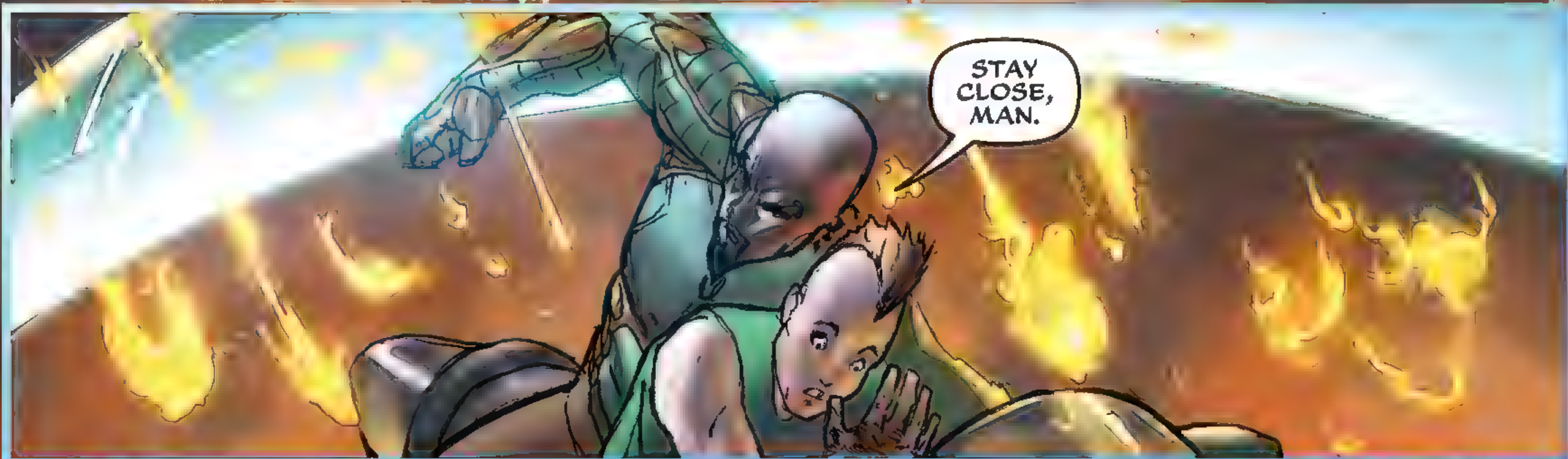


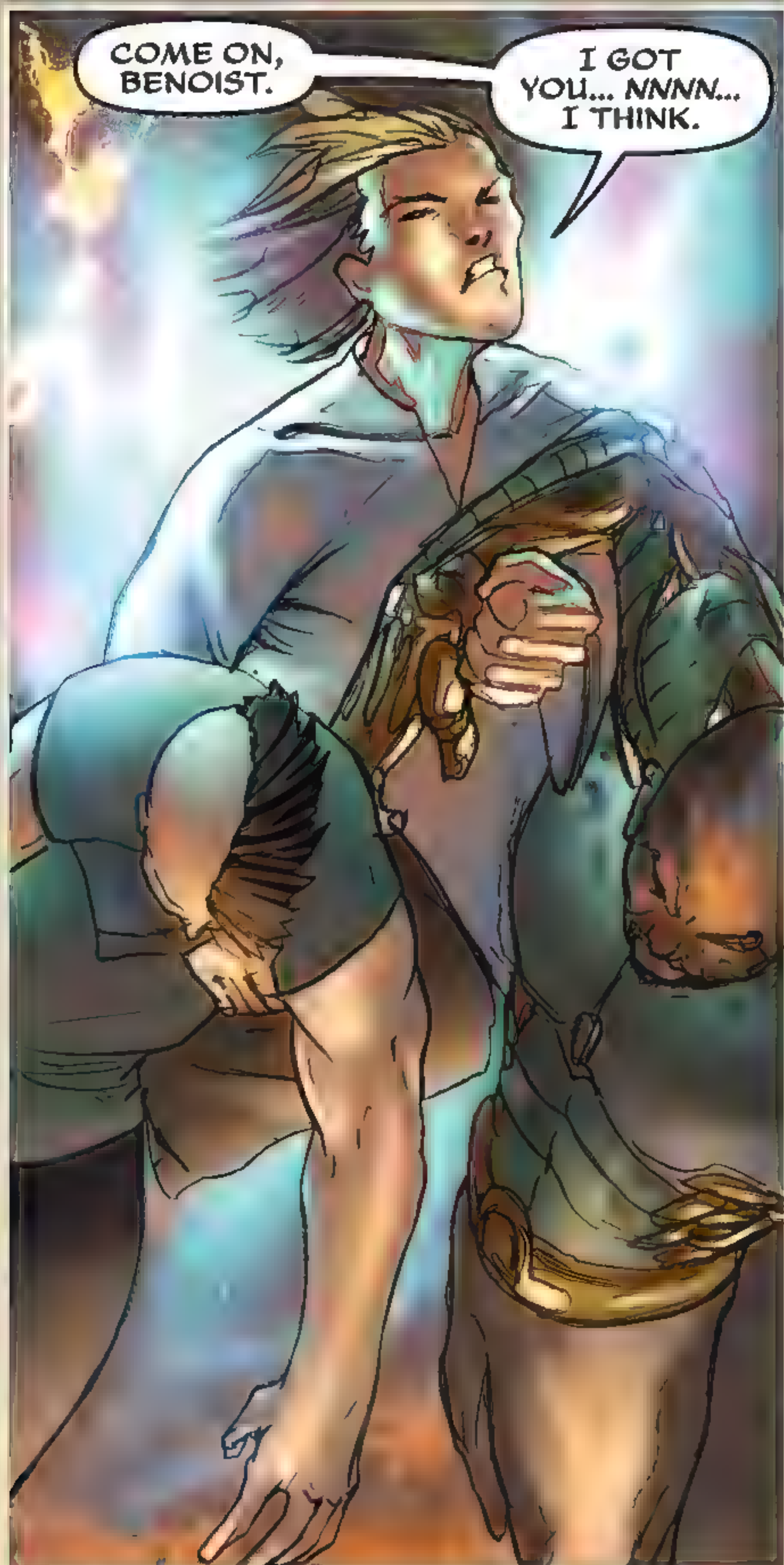
WHERE'S
YOUR GOLDEN
BOY?

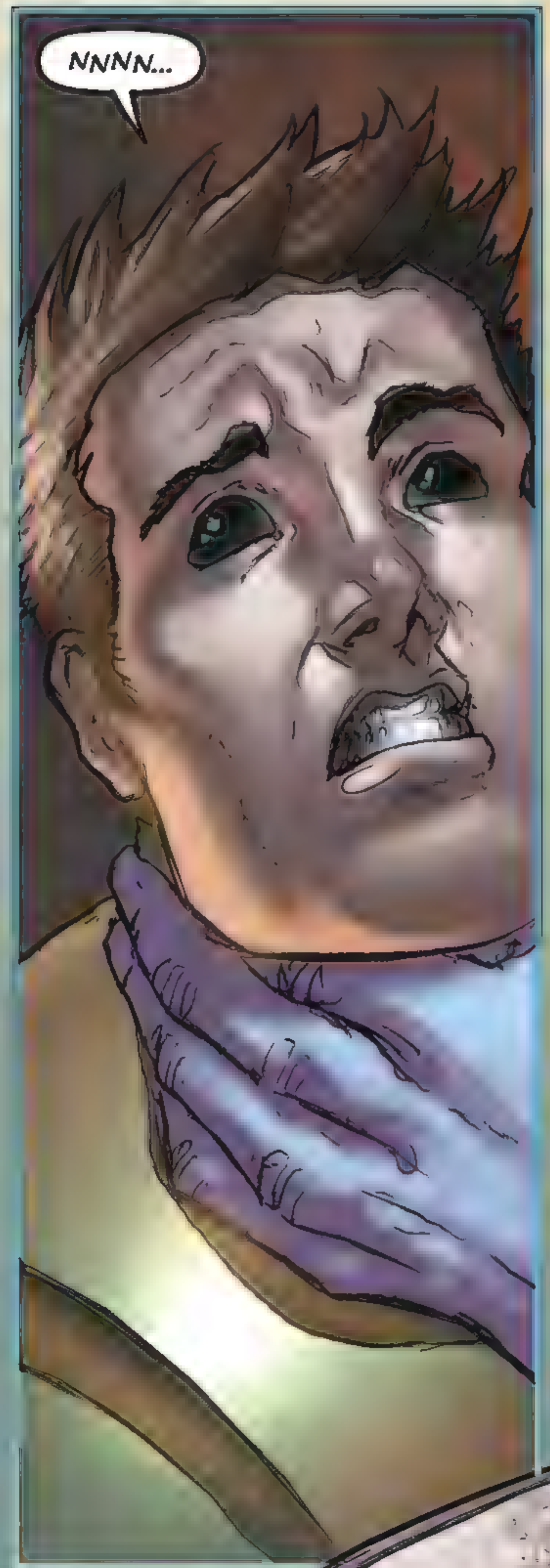
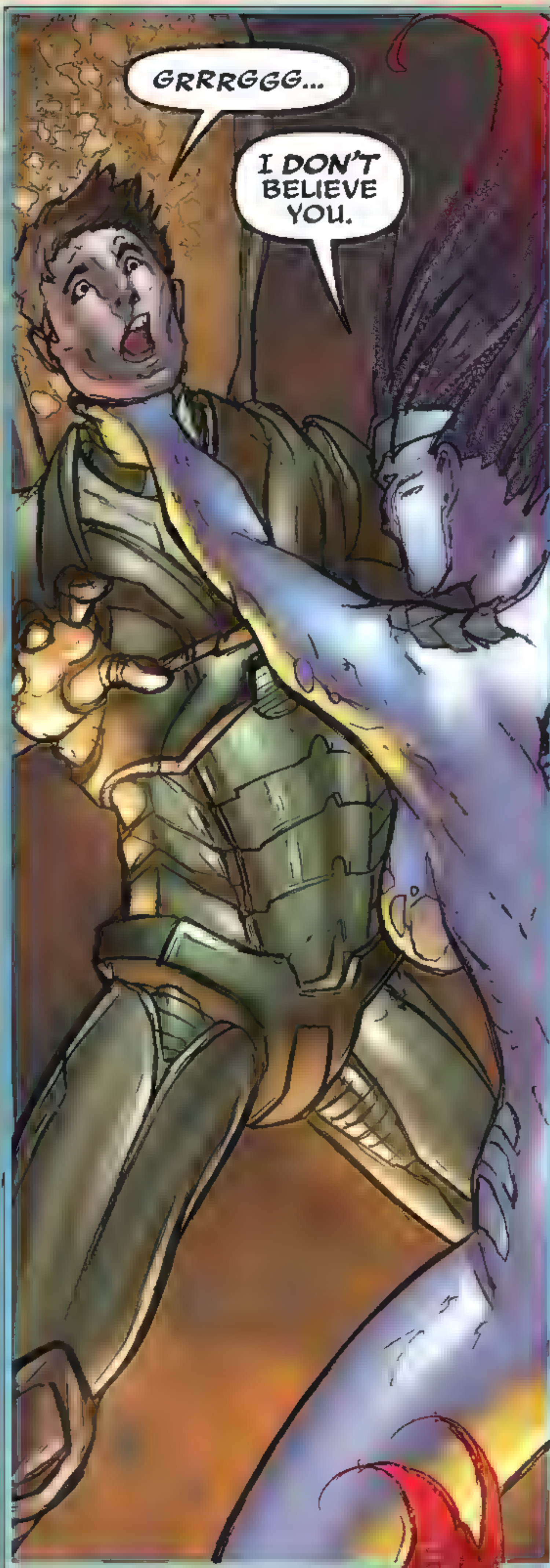
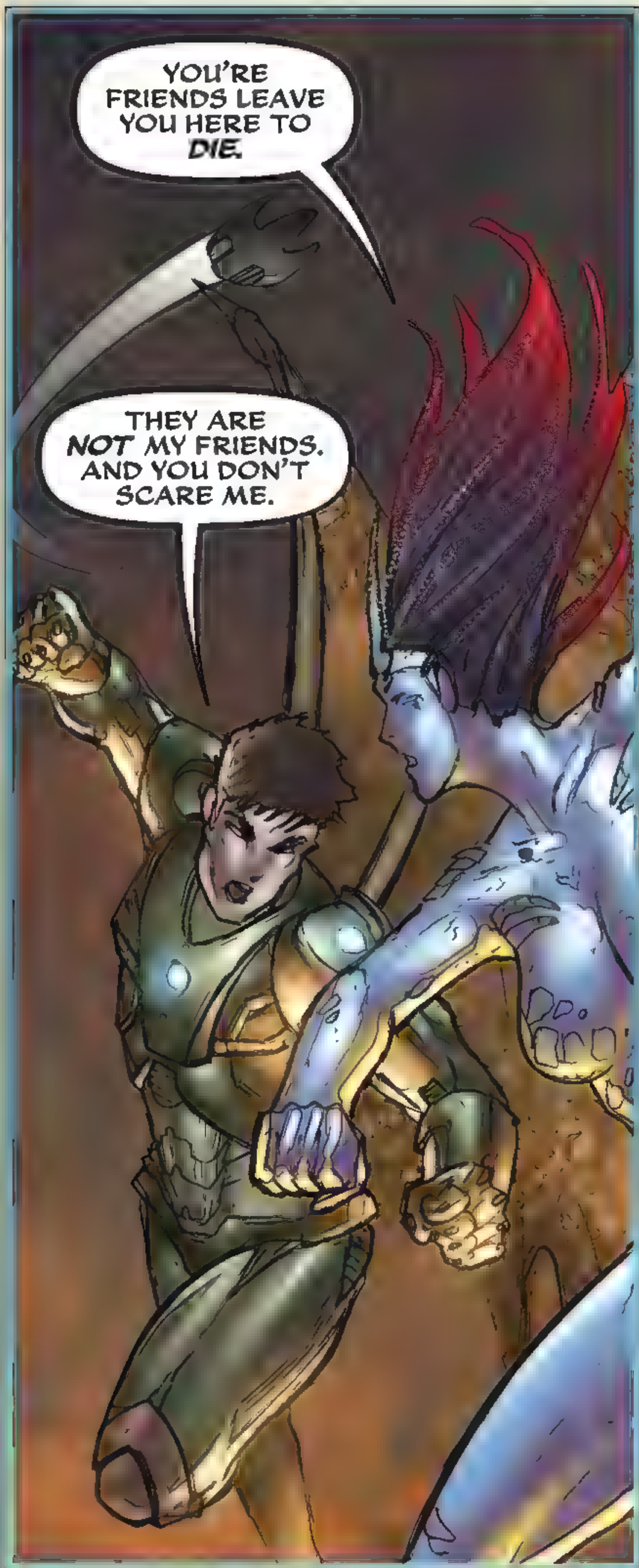
FRYING
BIGGER FISH
I GUESS.

WORST
CHOICE OF
WORDS,
TEAGUE.

STAY CLOSE.







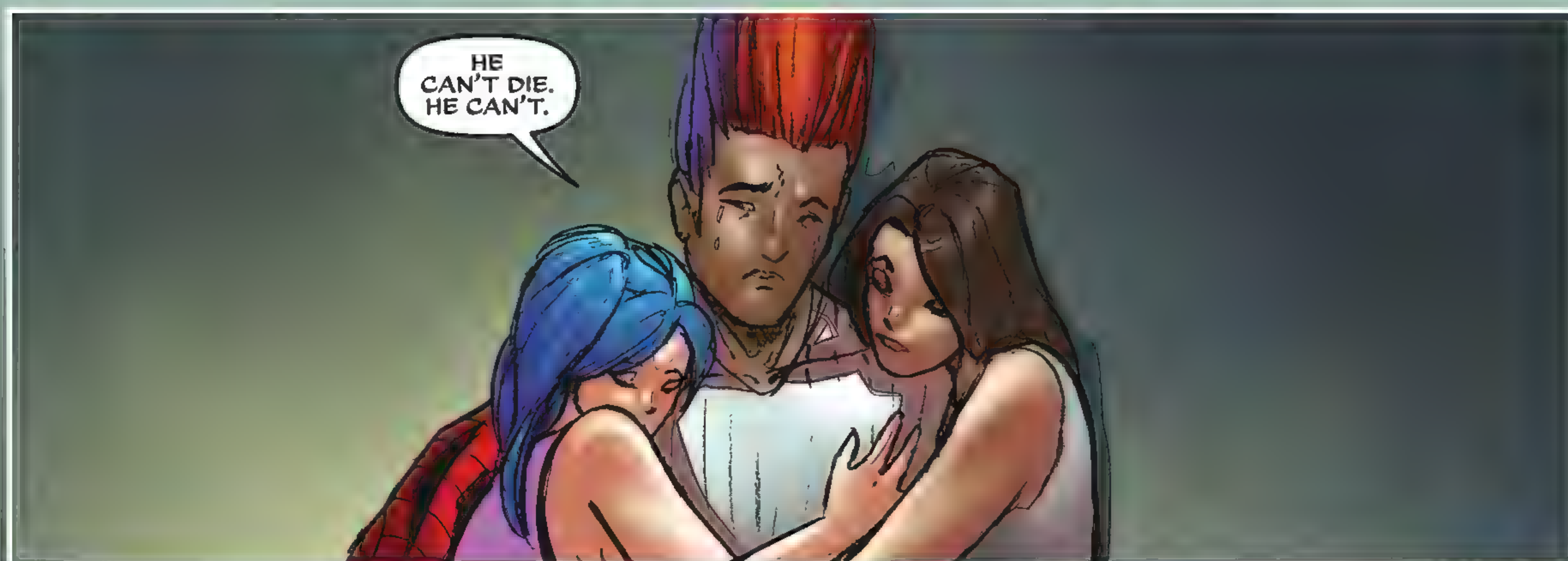


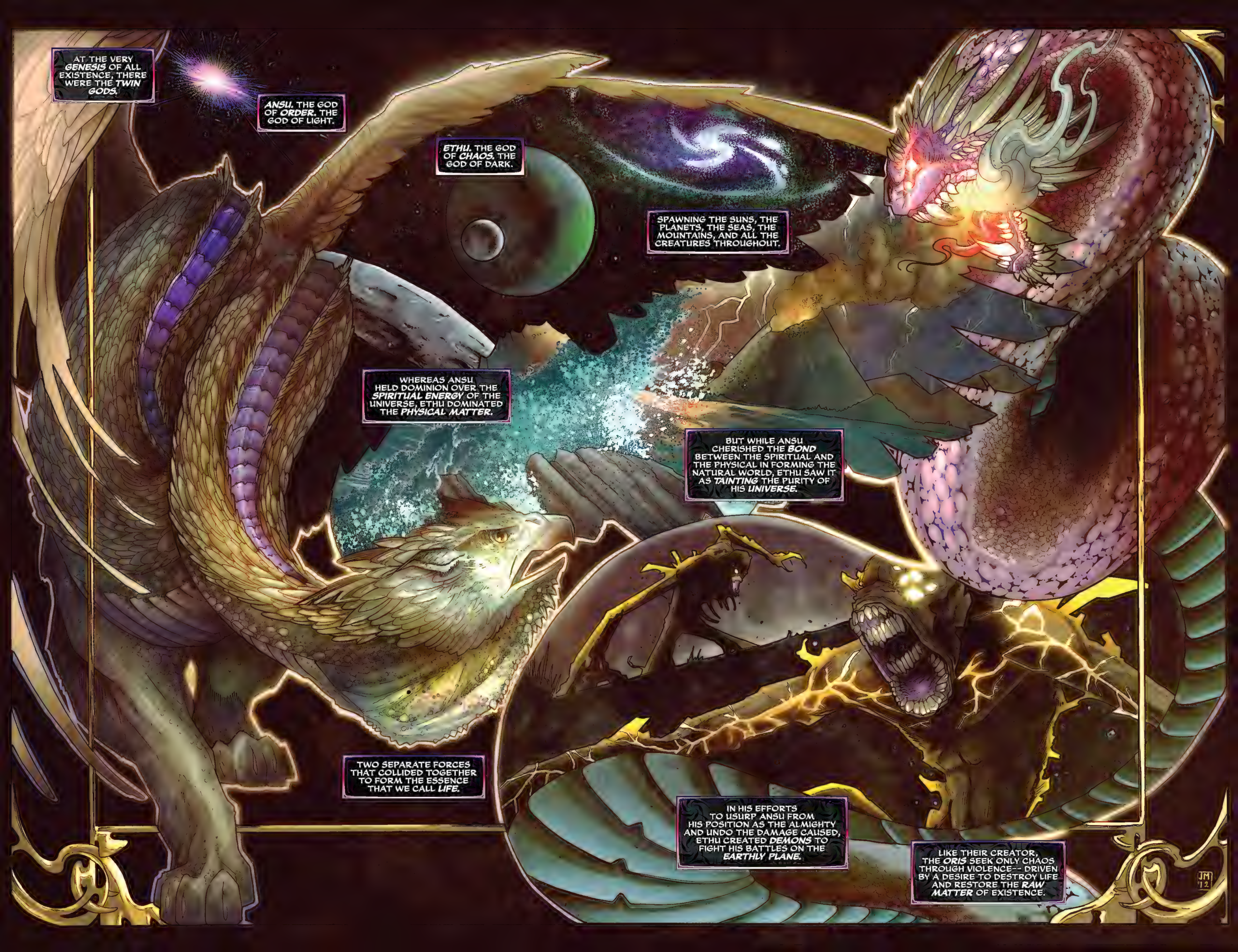
IT DOESN'T
MATTER.

THE *CHAOS*
IS HERE.

SOON, IT WILL BE
EVERYWHERE.







AT THE VERY
GENESIS OF ALL
EXISTENCE, THERE
WERE THE TWIN
GODS.

ANSU, THE GOD
OF ORDER, THE
GOD OF LIGHT.

ETHU, THE GOD
OF CHAOS, THE
GOD OF DARK.

SPAWNING THE SUNS, THE
PLANETS, THE SEAS, THE
MOUNTAINS, AND ALL THE
CREATURES THROUGHOUT.

WHEREAS ANSU
HELD DOMINION OVER THE
SPIRITUAL ENERGY OF THE
UNIVERSE, ETHU DOMINATED
THE PHYSICAL MATTER.

BUT WHILE ANSU
CHERISHED THE BOND
BETWEEN THE SPIRITUAL AND
THE PHYSICAL IN FORMING THE
NATURAL WORLD, ETHU SAW IT
AS TAINING THE PURITY OF
HIS UNIVERSE.

TWO SEPARATE FORCES
THAT COLLIDED TOGETHER
TO FORM THE ESSENCE
THAT WE CALL LIFE.

IN HIS EFFORTS
TO USURP ANSU FROM
HIS POSITION AS THE ALMIGHTY
AND UNDO THE DAMAGE CAUSED,
ETHU CREATED DEMONS TO
FIGHT HIS BATTLES ON THE
EARTHLY PLANE.

LIKE THEIR CREATOR,
THE ORIS SEEK ONLY CHAOS
THROUGH VIOLENCE-- DRIVEN
BY A DESIRE TO DESTROY LIFE
AND RESTORE THE RAW
MATTER OF EXISTENCE.



WHY DIDN'T YOU INFORM ME OF YOUR RETURN?

WHAT HAPPENED? DID YOU FIND GRACE?

I DIDN'T KNOW I HAD TO CHECK IN WITH YOU, NISABA.

SARIN?



SHE WAS TOO POWERFUL FOR ME. NO MATTER WHAT I DID, IT WASN'T ENOUGH.

I TELEPORTED AWAY. I FLED.



YOU WERE UNPREPARED. BUT YOU CAN STILL OVERCOME. YOU CAN ENSURE THAT NEXT TIME YOU'LL BE READY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SCARED.



DO NOT TOUCH ME!

I'M SORRY... I MEANT ONLY--

I'M NOT SCARED OF HER. OR HER MAGIC.

AND, I AM NOT YOUR SON.

I AM YOUR KING, AND THOUGH WE SHARE BLOOD, THE AUNT TO THE THRONE IS NOTHING.

REMEMBER THAT.



LATER

WAIT.
WE NEED TO
TALK ABOUT
THIS.

YOU GUYS
TALK. I GOT
WORK TO
DO.

THIS IS
UNACCEPTABLE.

SO
YOU KEEP
SAYING.



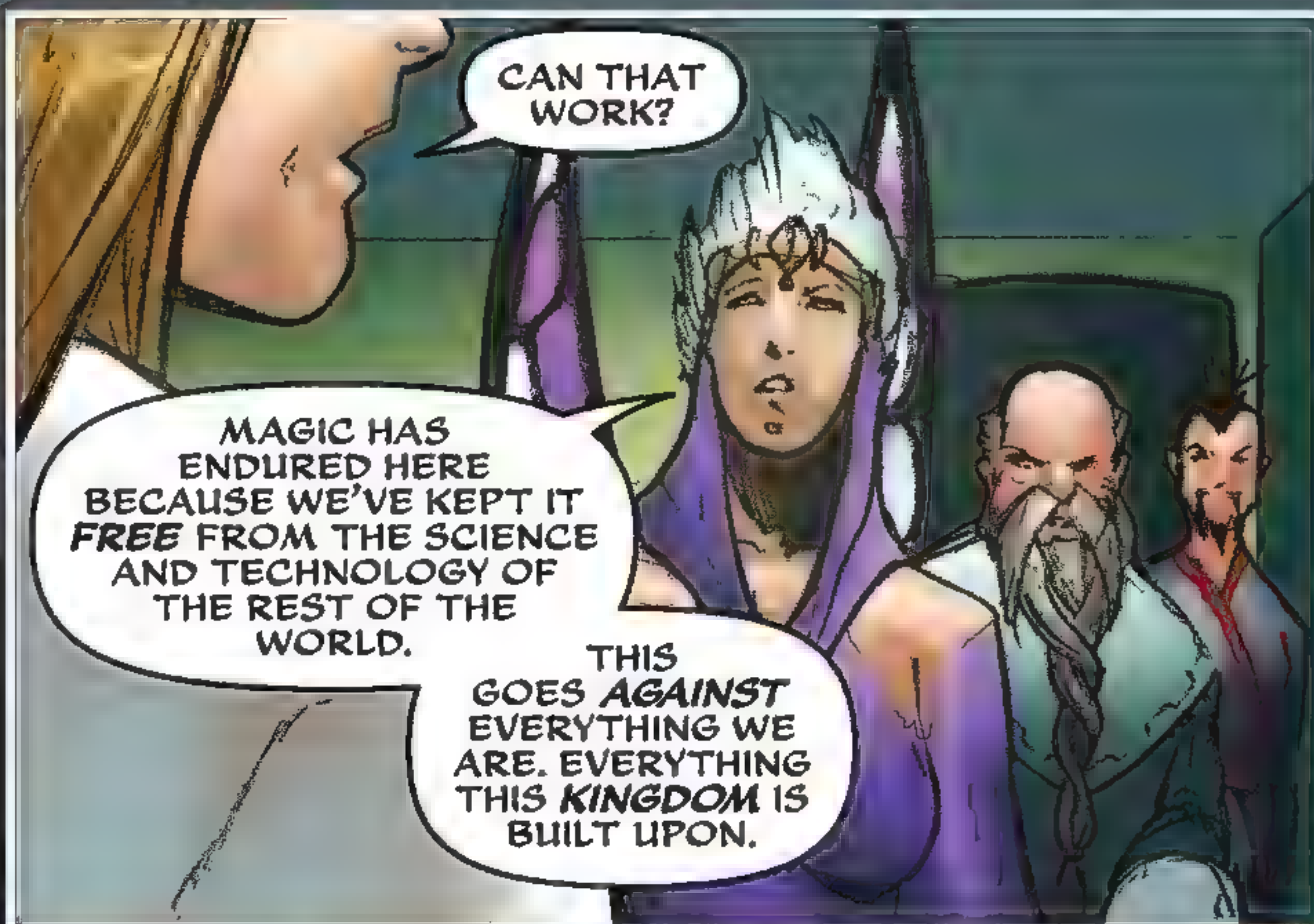
WHAT'S
THIS?



TEAGUE,
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?

WE'VE
BEEN WORKING
WITH SARIN TO MESH
OUR TECHNOLOGY
WITH THE POWER OF
THE MAGIC. BRINGING
BOTH ELEMENTS
TOGETHER.

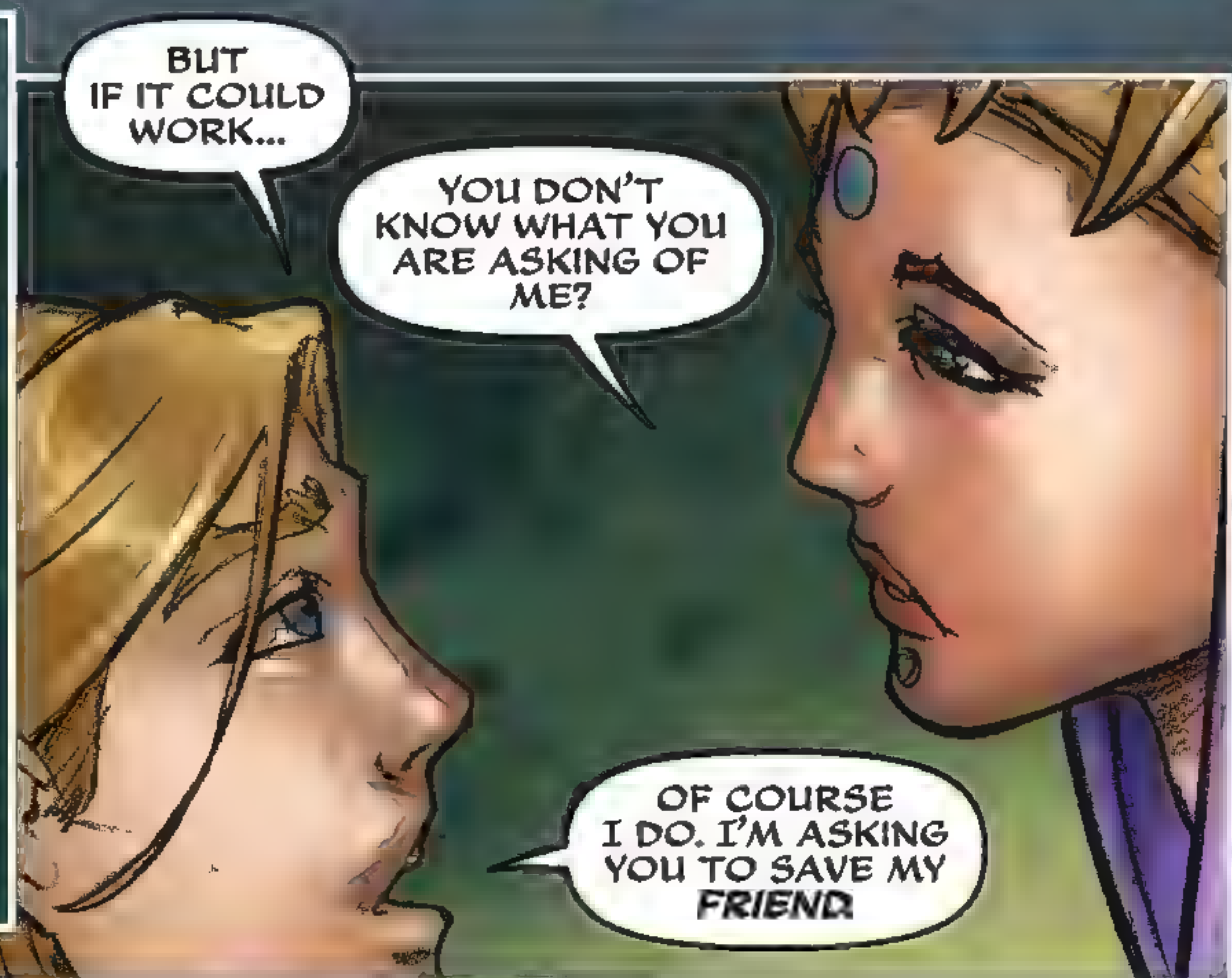
IT MIGHT
BE OUR ONLY
HOPE.



CAN THAT
WORK?

MAGIC HAS
ENDURED HERE
BECAUSE WE'VE KEPT IT
FREE FROM THE SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY OF
THE REST OF THE
WORLD.

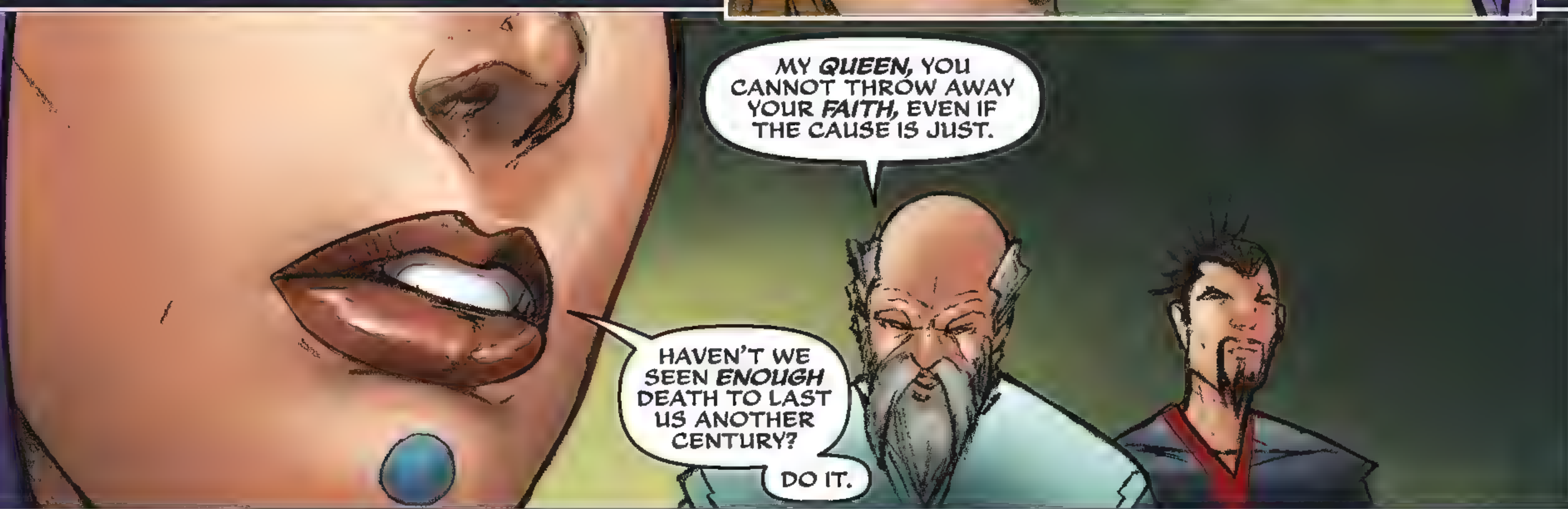
THIS
GOES AGAINST
EVERYTHING WE
ARE. EVERYTHING
THIS KINGDOM IS
BUILT UPON.



BUT
IF IT COULD
WORK...

YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT YOU
ARE ASKING OF
ME?

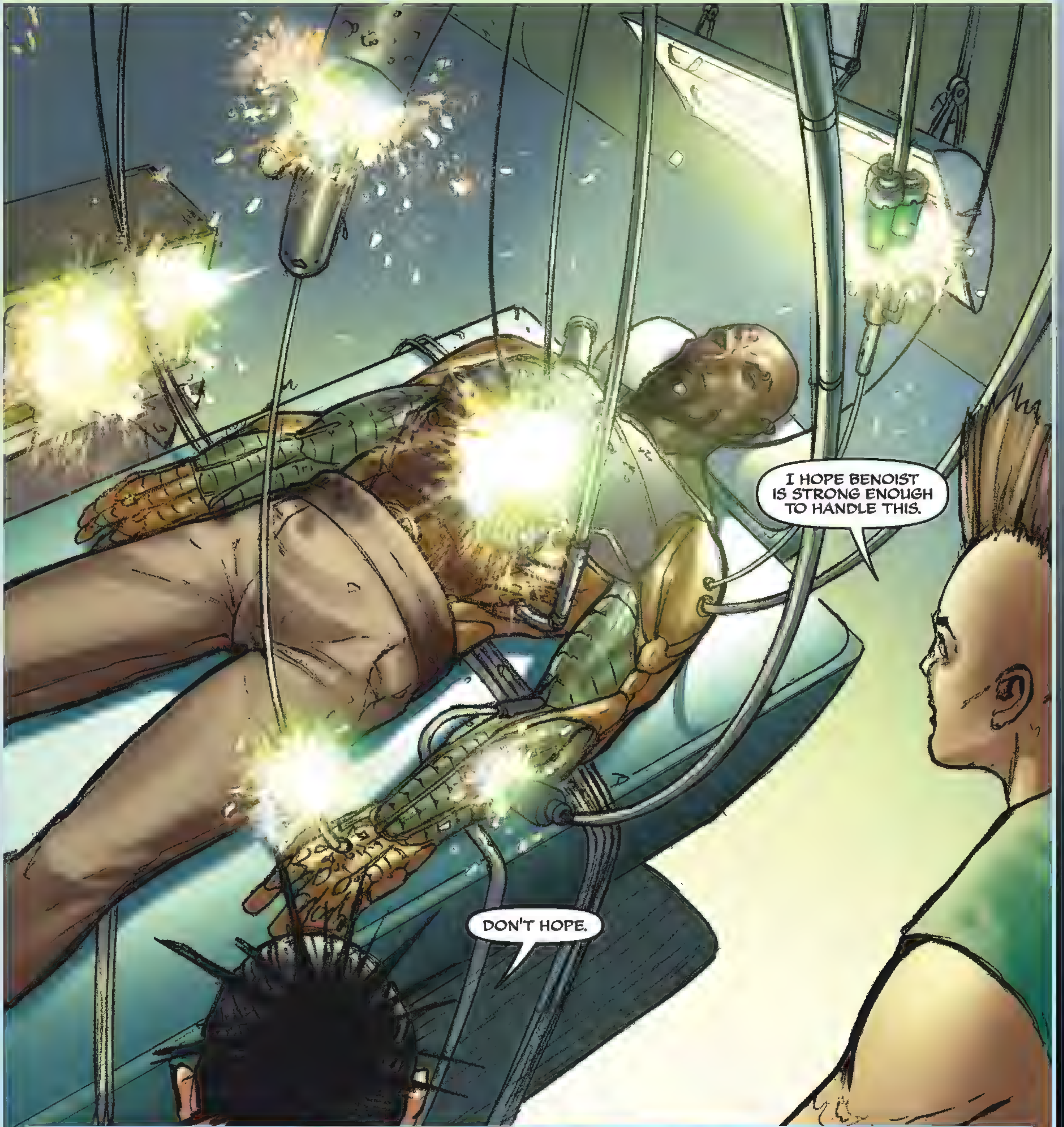
OF COURSE
I DO. I'M ASKING
YOU TO SAVE MY
FRIEND.



MY QUEEN, YOU
CANNOT THROW AWAY
YOUR FAITH, EVEN IF
THE CAUSE IS JUST.

HAVEN'T WE
SEEN ENOUGH
DEATH TO LAST
US ANOTHER
CENTURY?

DO IT.





VOL. 4

#4

OF 9

COVER A

MICHAEL TUPPERS'S SOULFIRE



MIKE
DEBALDI



VOL. 4

#4

OF 9

COVER B

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE



MIKE
DEBAUD



ASPEN

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COVER C

MICHAEL T. LUTHE'S SOULFIRE™





ASPEN

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COVER D

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™



MIKE
DEBAY



VOLUME FOUR

SHOCK THERAPY

plot—
J.T. KRUL & FRANK MASTROMAURO

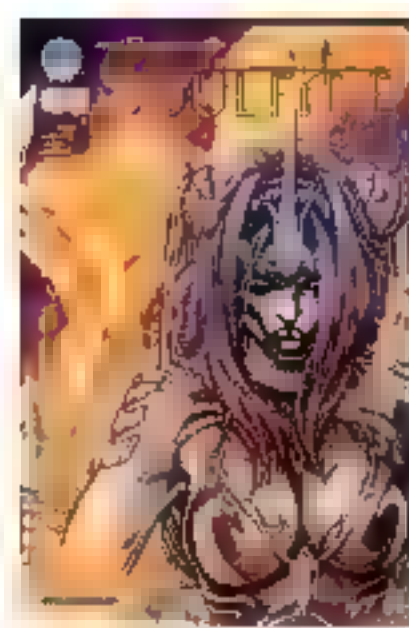
story—
J.T. KRUL

pencils—
MIKE DeBALFO

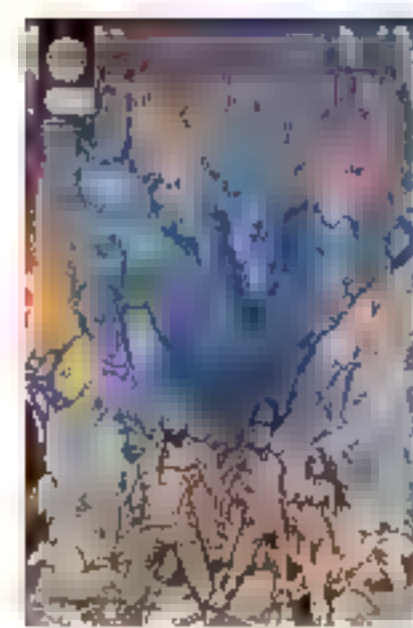
colors—
NEI RUFFINO

letters—
JOSH REED

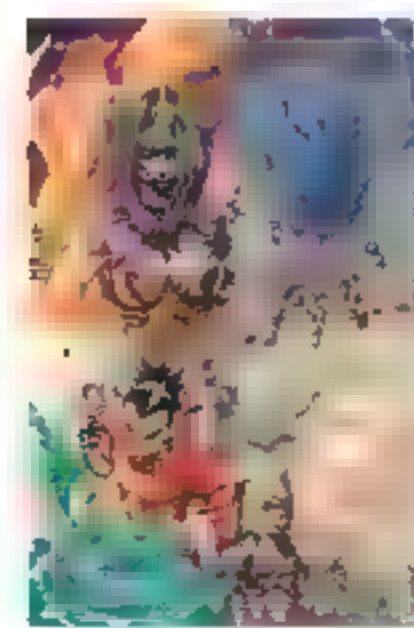
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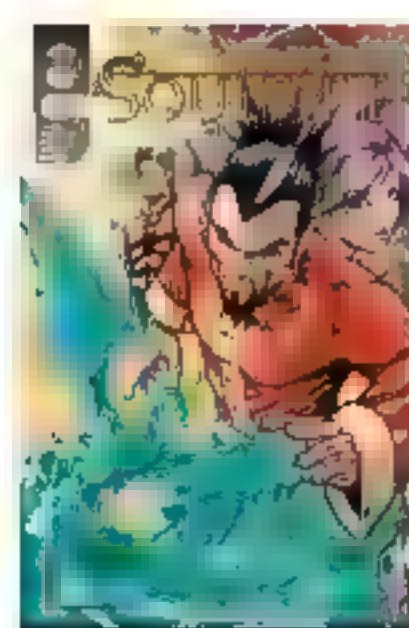
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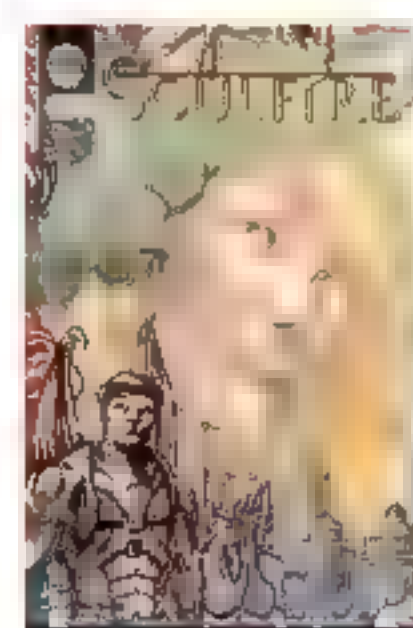
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JORDI ESCUIN



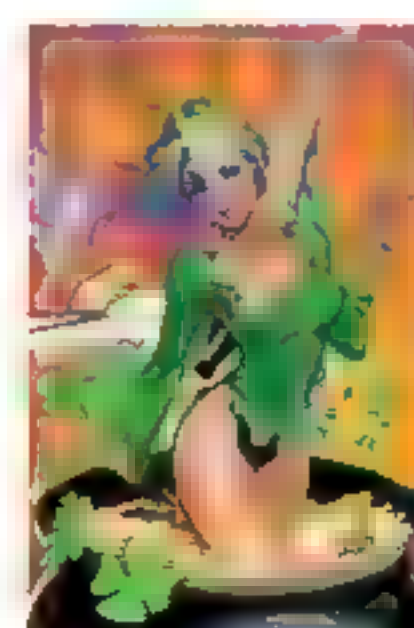
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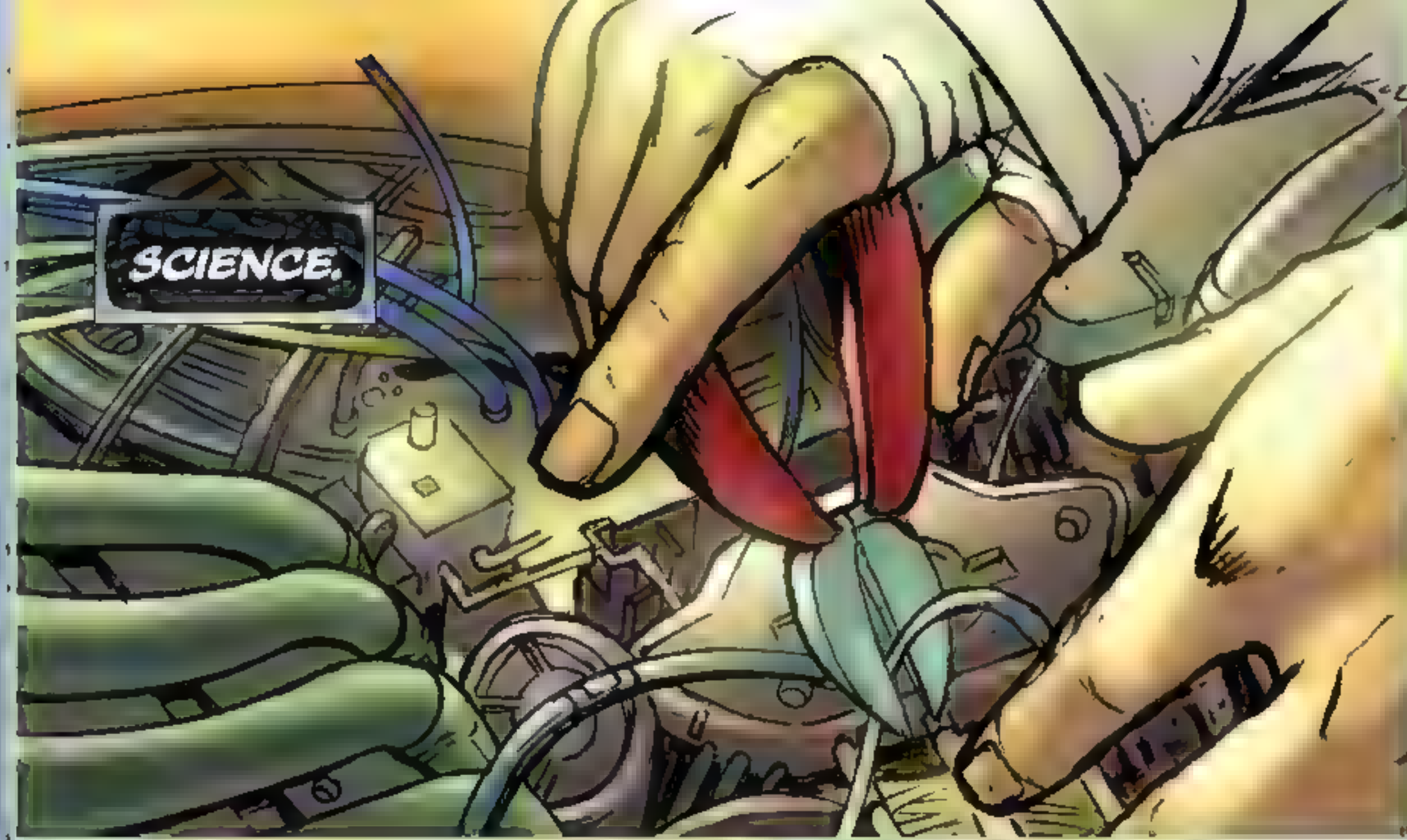
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THE STORY SO FAR...

The city of New Pompeii burns under the might of the dragon made of flames, as the chaos of Oris continues to possess Grace's soul. Malikai attempted to quell her powerful and merciless destruction of the city, while Benoist was forced to rescue Sarin's tech gurus, sacrificing his own body in the process. Now, Faye must make a decision that strains the very core of her faith by allowing the fusion of magic and technology in order to potentially save Benoist's life...



SCIENCE.



MAGIC.

THE OUTSIDE WORLD
IS DOMINATED BY THE
FORMER, UNAWARE THE
OTHER EVEN EXISTS.

HERE IN THE
EVERLANDS, THEY
REJECT ALL TECHNOLOGY--
SEEING IT AS BEING IN DIRECT
OPPOSITION TO THEIR
ANCIENT POWER.

FOR ME, IT'S ALL CONNECTED.
WHEN THE LIGHT OF **MAGIC**
WAS ALL BUT EXTINGUISHED,
WE NEEDED SOMETHING ELSE.

SOMETHING TO
GET US OUT OF
THE DARK AGES.

AHHH!

SCIENCE
BECAME OUR
MAGIC.



BUT CAN
THE TWO REALLY
CO-EXIST?



BENOIST!

STAY BACK!

WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO HIM?!?



AHHH!

HIS ENTIRE
CYBERNETIC
BODY IS OUT OF
CONTROL.

BENOIST!
CALM DOWN!



HIS
TECHNOLOGY
IS **POISONING** THE
MAGIC. JUST AS
WE **FEARED**.



LOOK OUT!

UUNGH!

I'M SORRY, MAN.
HATE TO DO THIS,
BUT YOU'RE GOING TO
HURT YOURSELF. OR
WORSE-- OTHERS.



NNNNN!



DAMN...

LATER.

I DON'T GET IT, SONIA. WHY DID HIS BODY REACT THAT WAY?

I DO.

MAGIC IS DANGEROUS, MAL. LOOK WHAT IT DID TO YOU BEFORE. WHAT IT'S DOING TO GRACE, NOW. SHE'S OFF HER ROCKER.

I KNOW YOU LIKE TO THINK IT'S SOME MAJESTIC FORCE FOR *GOOD*-- BUT IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S JUST A FORCE. *PERIOD*.

AND EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT POWER DOES.

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.

THESE MASTERS ALWAYS TOLD ME ABOUT THE EBB AND FLOW OF MAGIC. DESCRIBING IT AS A *CYCLE*. AGES WITH MAGIC. AGES WITHOUT IT.

THE SAME COULD GO FOR THE TWO SOURCES OF THE POWER.

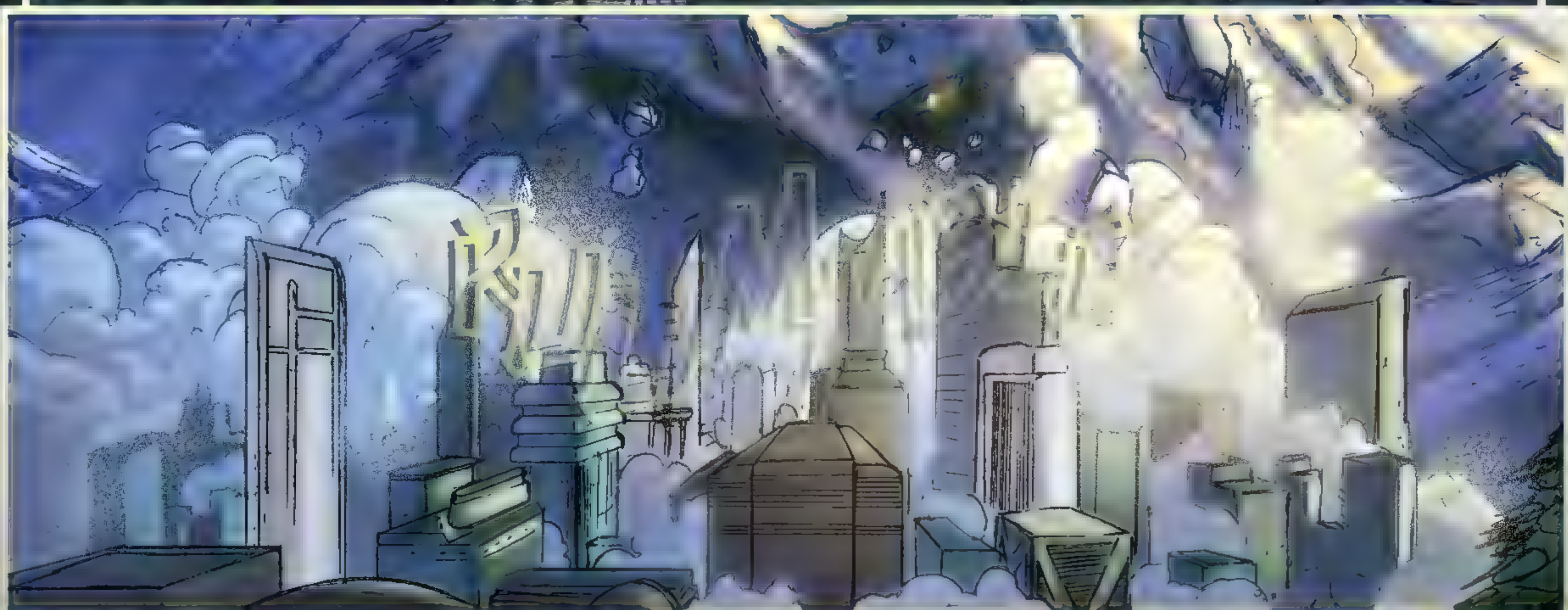
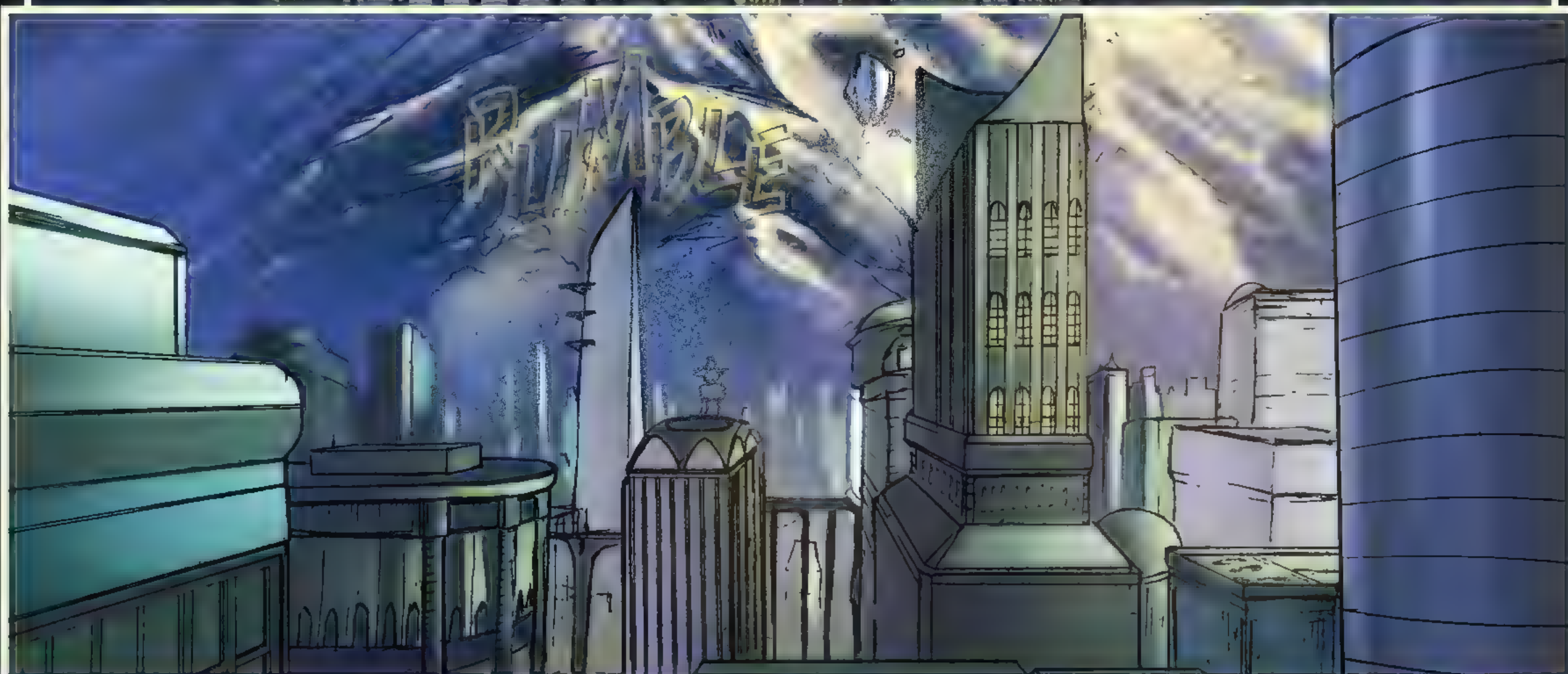
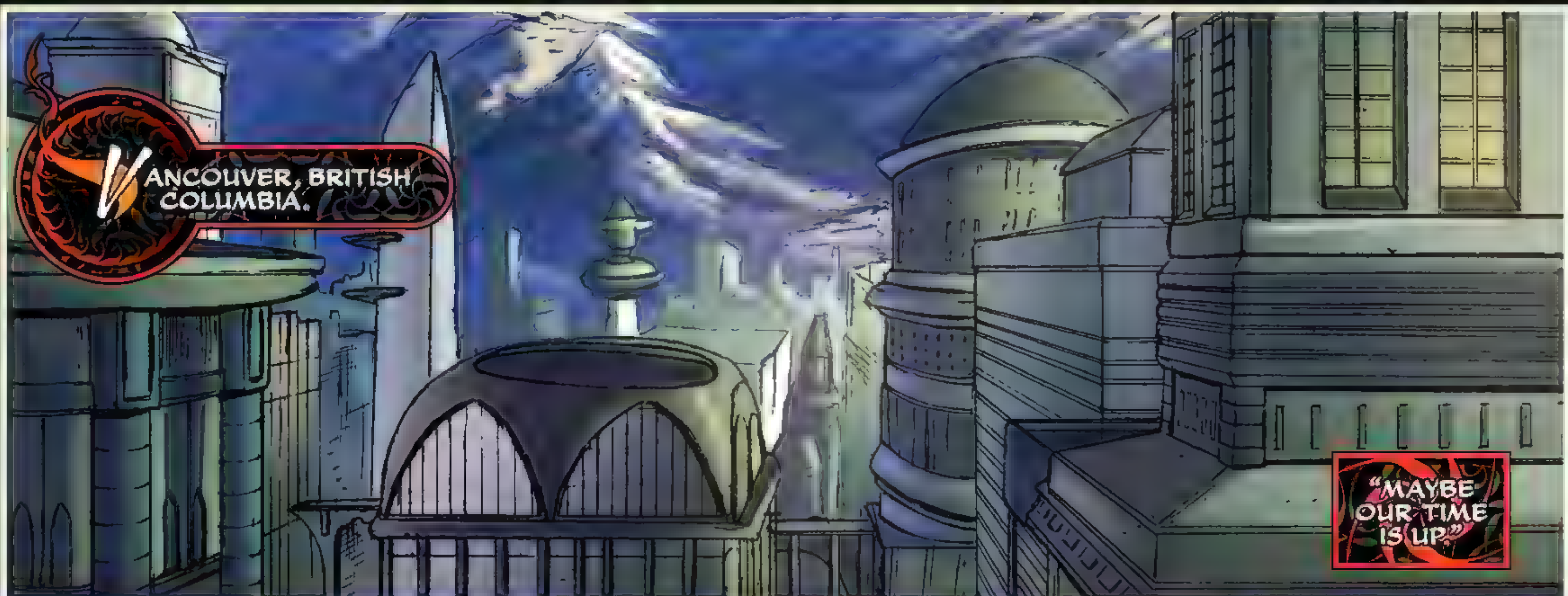
WE'VE HAD OUR *ORDER*. NOW, WE'RE GETTING THE *CHAOS*.

WHAT IF THERE'S NO *SAVING GRACE*? OR *STOPPING HER*?

THAT'S THE SPIRIT. GEESH.

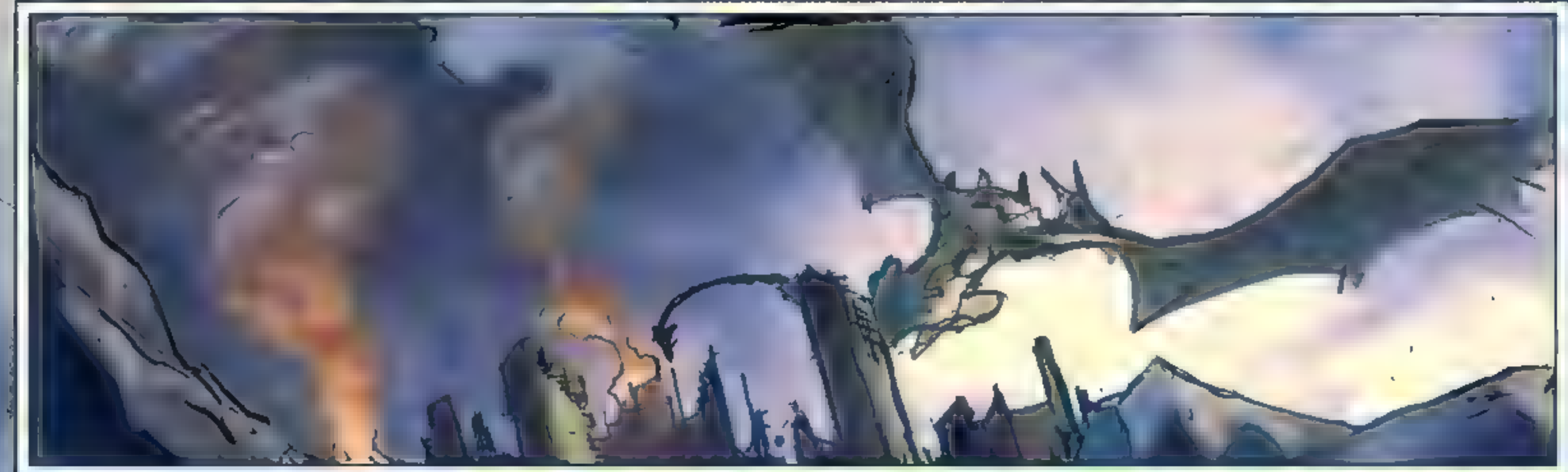
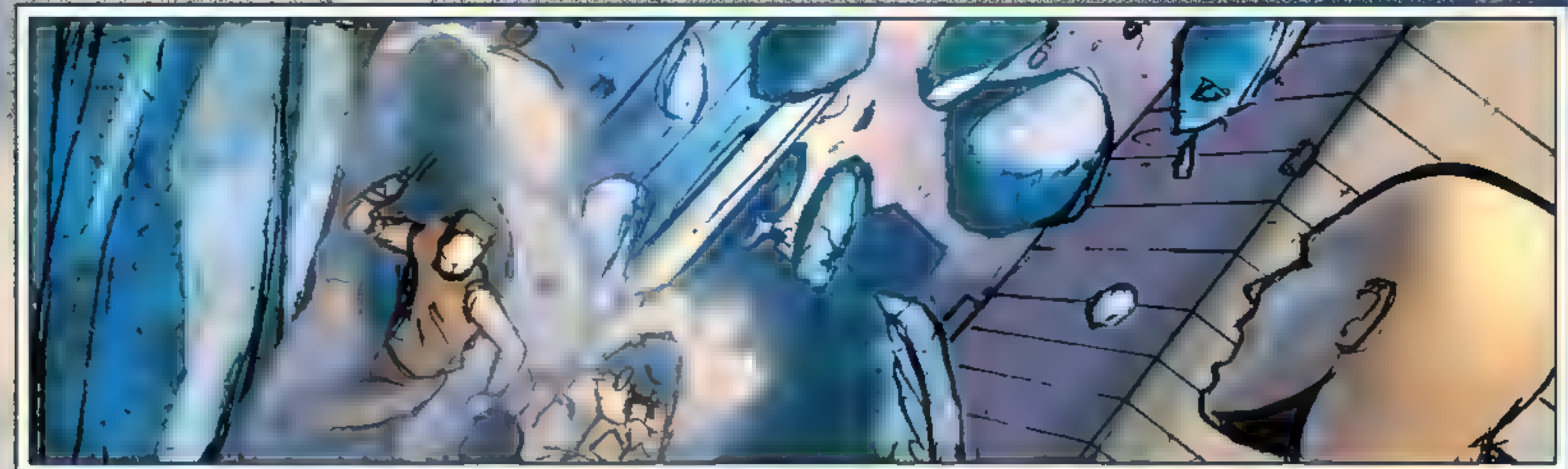
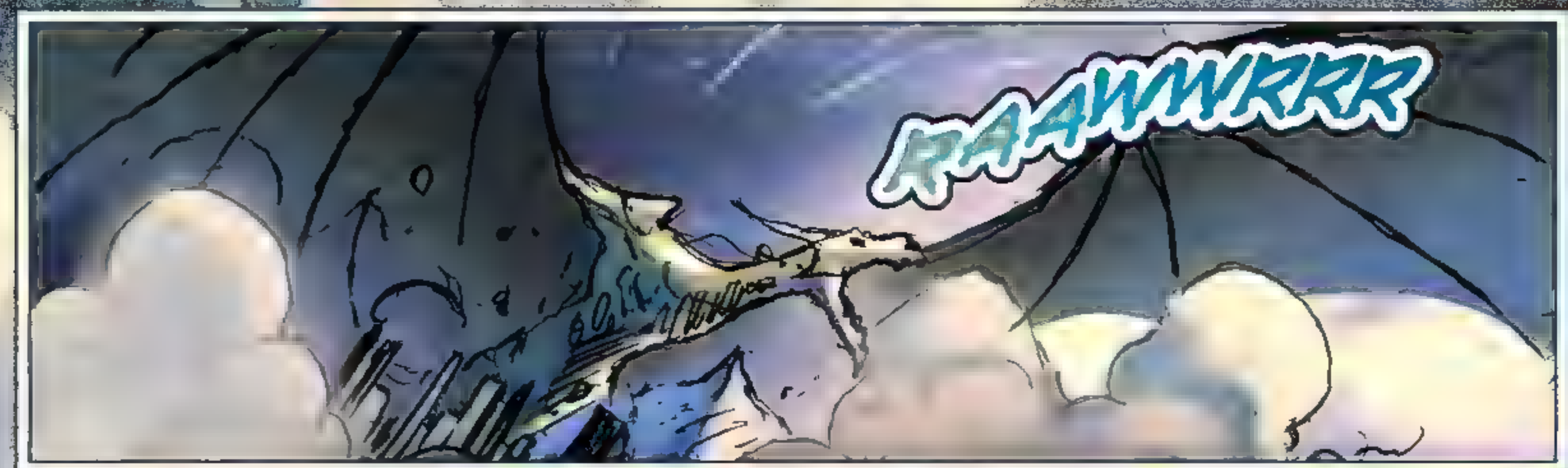
HEY. COULD BE THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DINOSAURS. THEY RULED FOR THEIR TIME. THEN THEY GOT WIPED AWAY.

MAYBE IT'S *OUR* TURN.





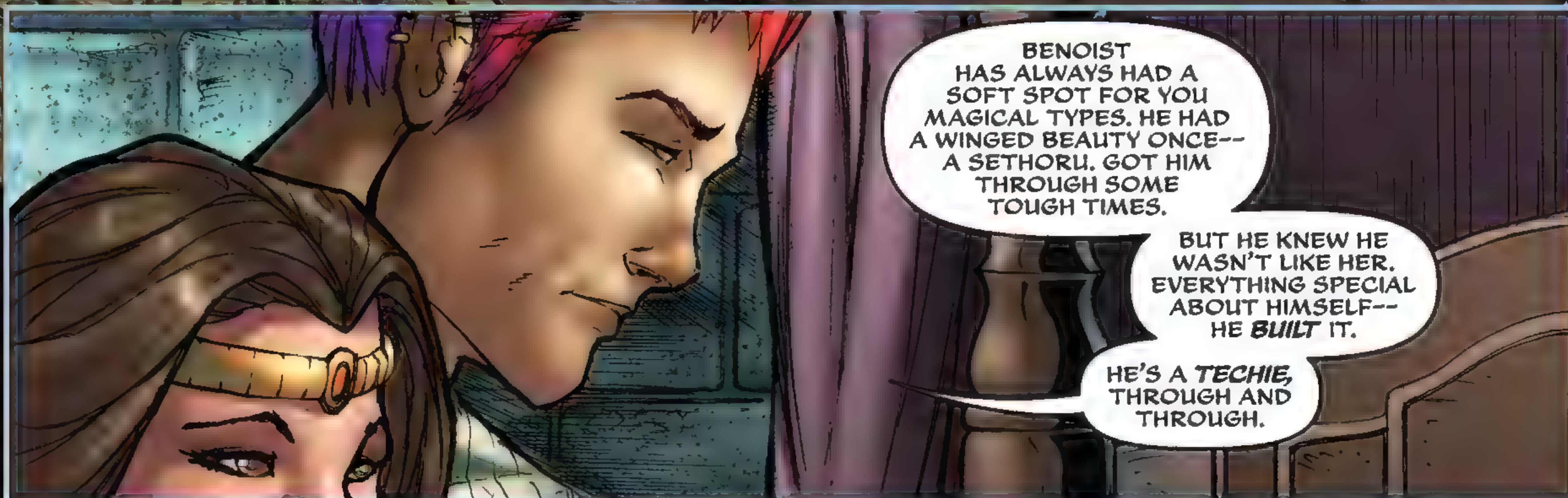
RAAWRRR





LOOK
AT HIM,
PILI.

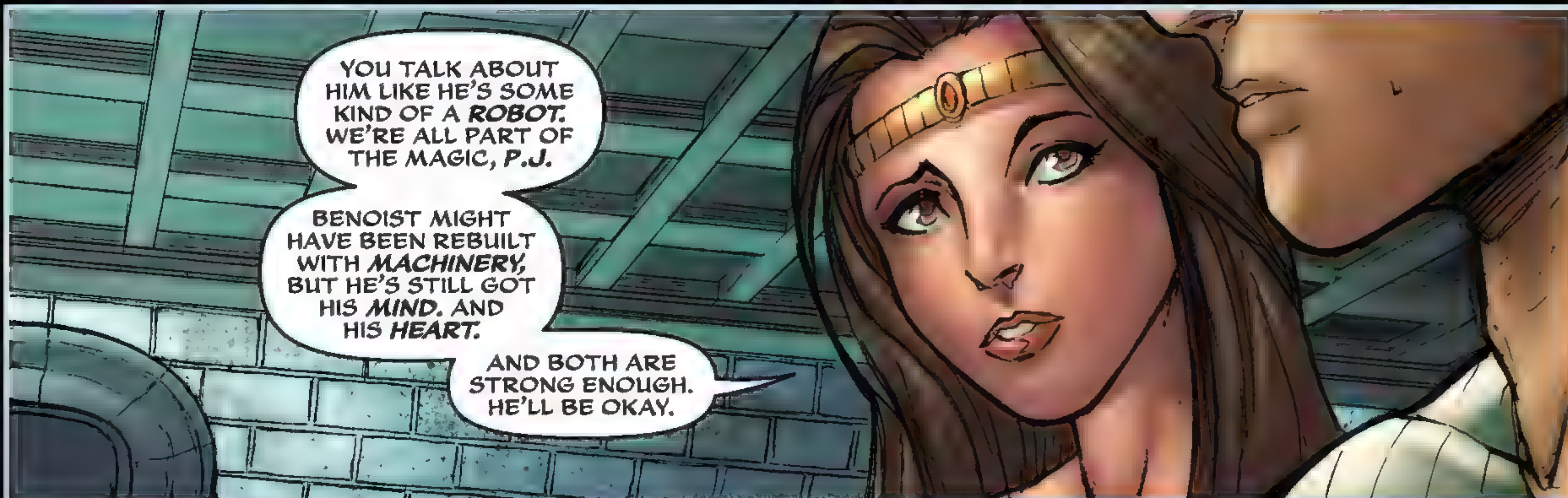
I KNEW
THIS WAS A
BAD IDEA.



BENOIST
HAS ALWAYS HAD A
SOFT SPOT FOR YOU
MAGICAL TYPES. HE HAD
A WINGED BEAUTY ONCE--
A SETHORU. GOT HIM
THROUGH SOME
TOUGH TIMES.

BUT HE KNEW HE
WASN'T LIKE HER.
EVERYTHING SPECIAL
ABOUT HIMSELF--
HE *BUILT* IT.

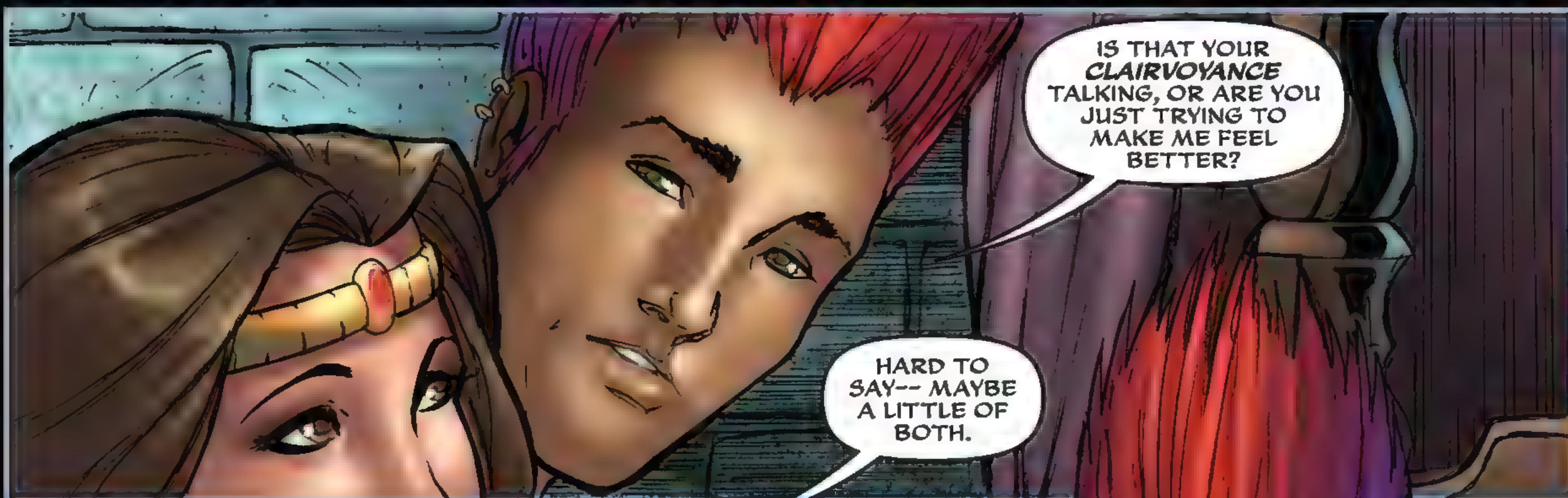
HE'S A *TECHIE*,
THROUGH AND
THROUGH.



YOU TALK ABOUT
HIM LIKE HE'S SOME
KIND OF A *ROBOT*.
WE'RE ALL PART OF
THE MAGIC, P.J.

BENOIST MIGHT
HAVE BEEN REBUILT
WITH *MACHINERY*,
BUT HE'S STILL GOT
HIS *MIND*. AND
HIS *HEART*.

AND BOTH ARE
STRONG ENOUGH.
HE'LL BE OKAY.



IS THAT YOUR
CLAIRVOYANCE
TALKING, OR ARE YOU
JUST TRYING TO
MAKE ME FEEL
BETTER?

HARD TO
SAY-- MAYBE
A LITTLE OF
BOTH.



I'LL TAKE
WHAT I CAN
GET.

SEE,
MY LORD
SARIN?



THEY PLOT
IN SECRET.



SO IT SEEMS,
NISABA. WHILE
I TEND TO MY
DUTIES AS KING, I
AM **BETRAYED** BY
MY SO-CALLED
LOYAL FRIEND?

BETRAYED?
NO WAY!

I'M ONLY TRYING
TO HELP **BENOIST**.
PAYBACK FOR HIM
SAVING MY ASS.



CRUNCH

YOU
ARE A FOOL,
TEAGUE!

THE GOAL IS TO
USE THE TECHNOLOGY
TO AMPLIFY **OUR** POWER--
NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.
BENOIST DOESN'T **DESERVE**
ANY PART OF OUR
MAGIC.



NNNN... HIM
AND I ARE THE
SAME, SARIN. DOES
THAT MEAN THERE IS
NO PLACE FOR ME IN
YOUR NEW WORLD
ORDER?

ANY PLACE
YOU HOLD IN **MY**
WORLD IS NOTHING BUT
A SIGN OF MY **MERCY**.
YOU DESERVE ONLY
WHAT I GIVE YOU.



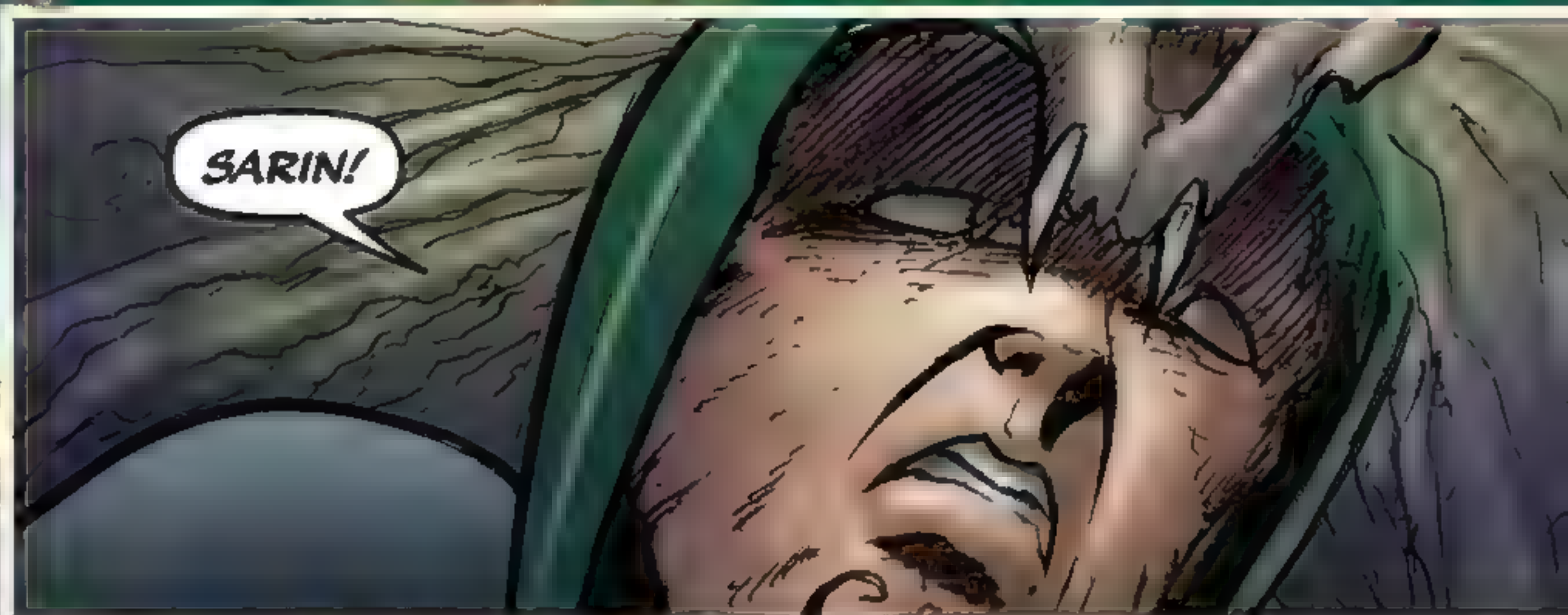
YOU'VE MADE
YOUR POINT,
SARIN.

BESIDES--
IT WAS *MY* DECISION.
I TOLD TEAGUE TO DO
IT. ANYTHING TO *SAVE*
THIS MAN.



THIS IS *NOT*
YOUR KINGDOM
ANYMORE, FAYE. IT
IS *MINE*. AS ARE
YOU, *MY QUEEN*.

TOUCH ME
AGAIN-- OUTSIDE OF
THE *BEDROOM* THAT IS--
AND THERE WILL BE ONLY
ONE THRONE TO SIT
UPON.



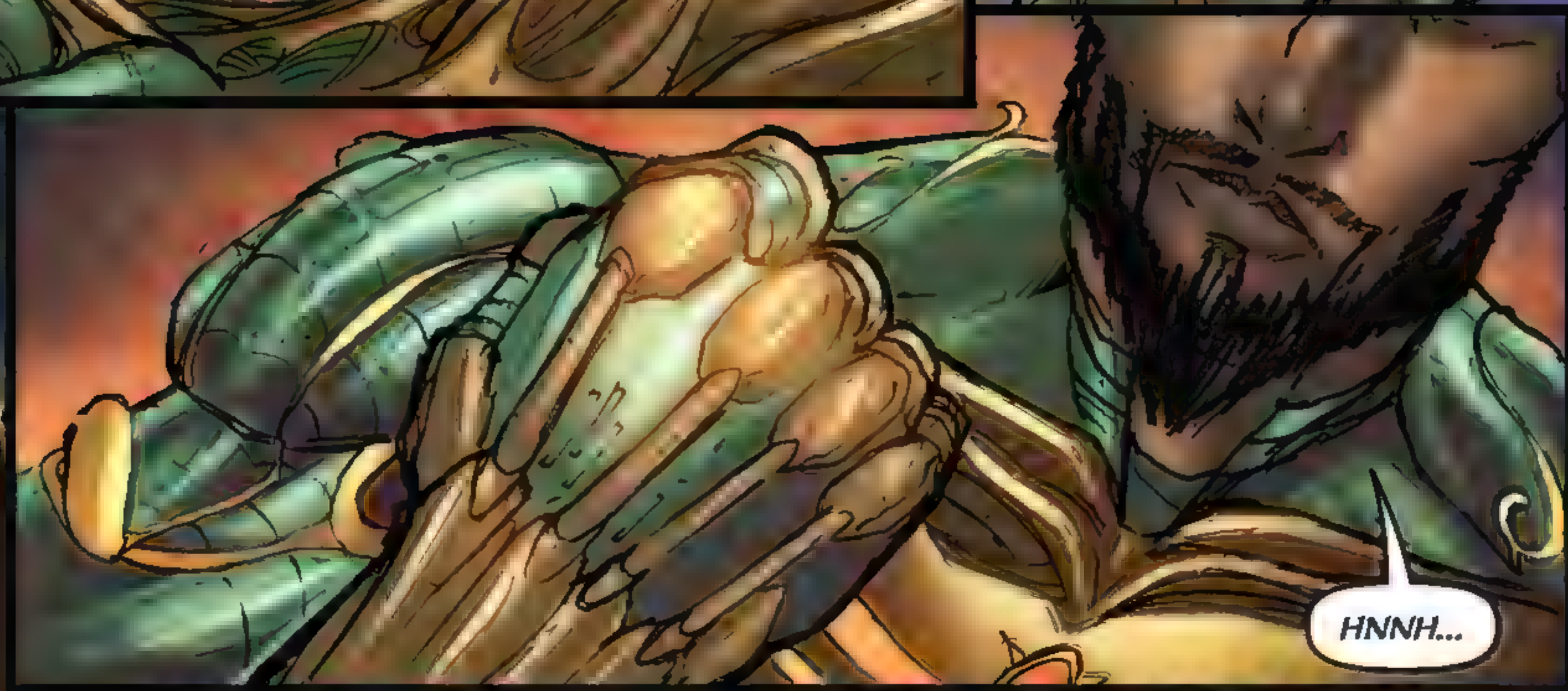
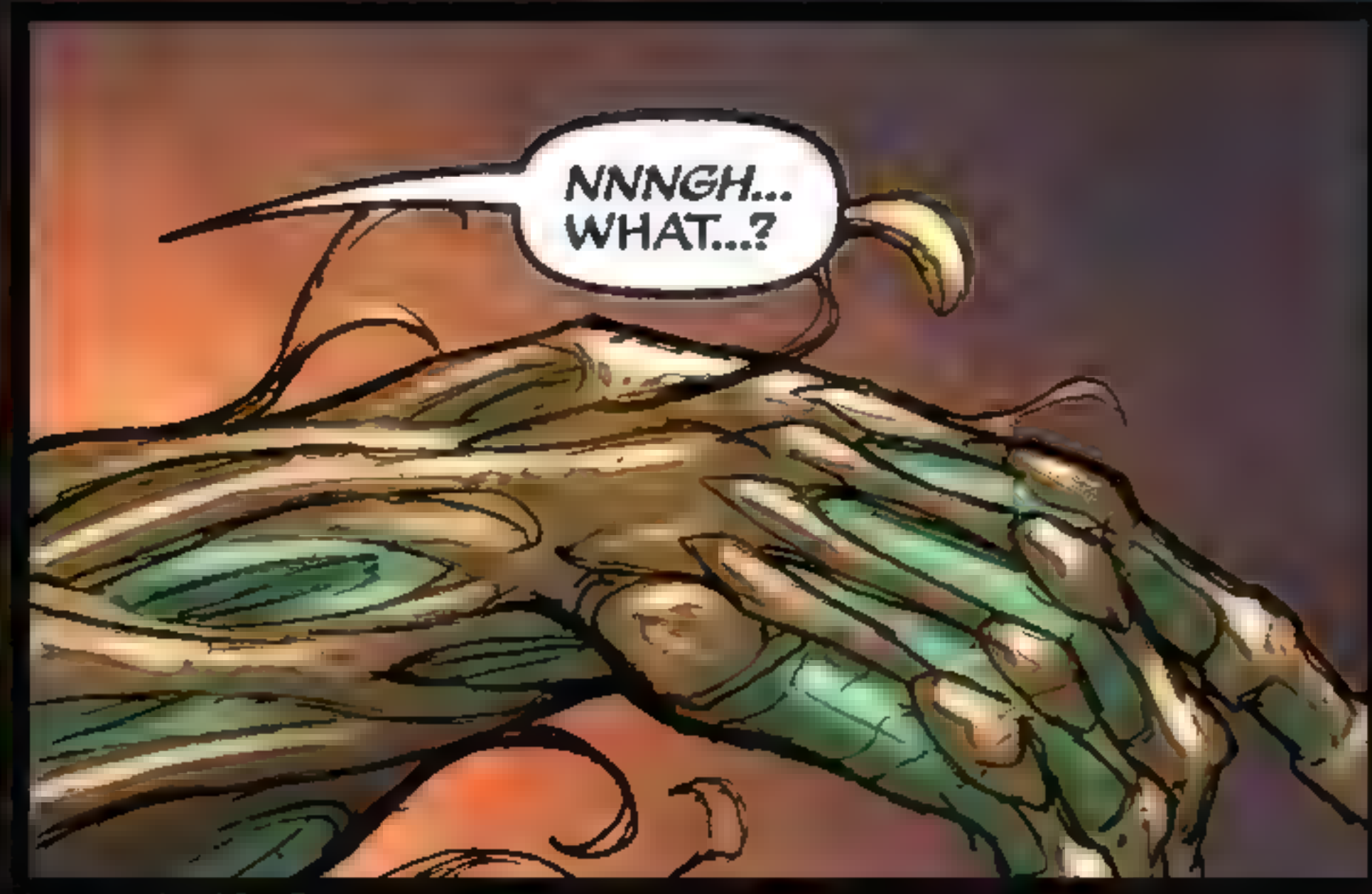
SARIN!



GET
AWAY FROM
HER!

YOU
STRIKE THE
KING? THAT
IS CERTAIN
DEATH!







PAPA
BEAR! HOW YA
FEELING?

HEAD IS
STILL A LITTLE
FUZZY, BUT I'M
ALRIGHT.

ACTUALLY,
BETTER THAN
ALRIGHT.

DID YOU
SEE WHAT I CAN
DO, NOW?

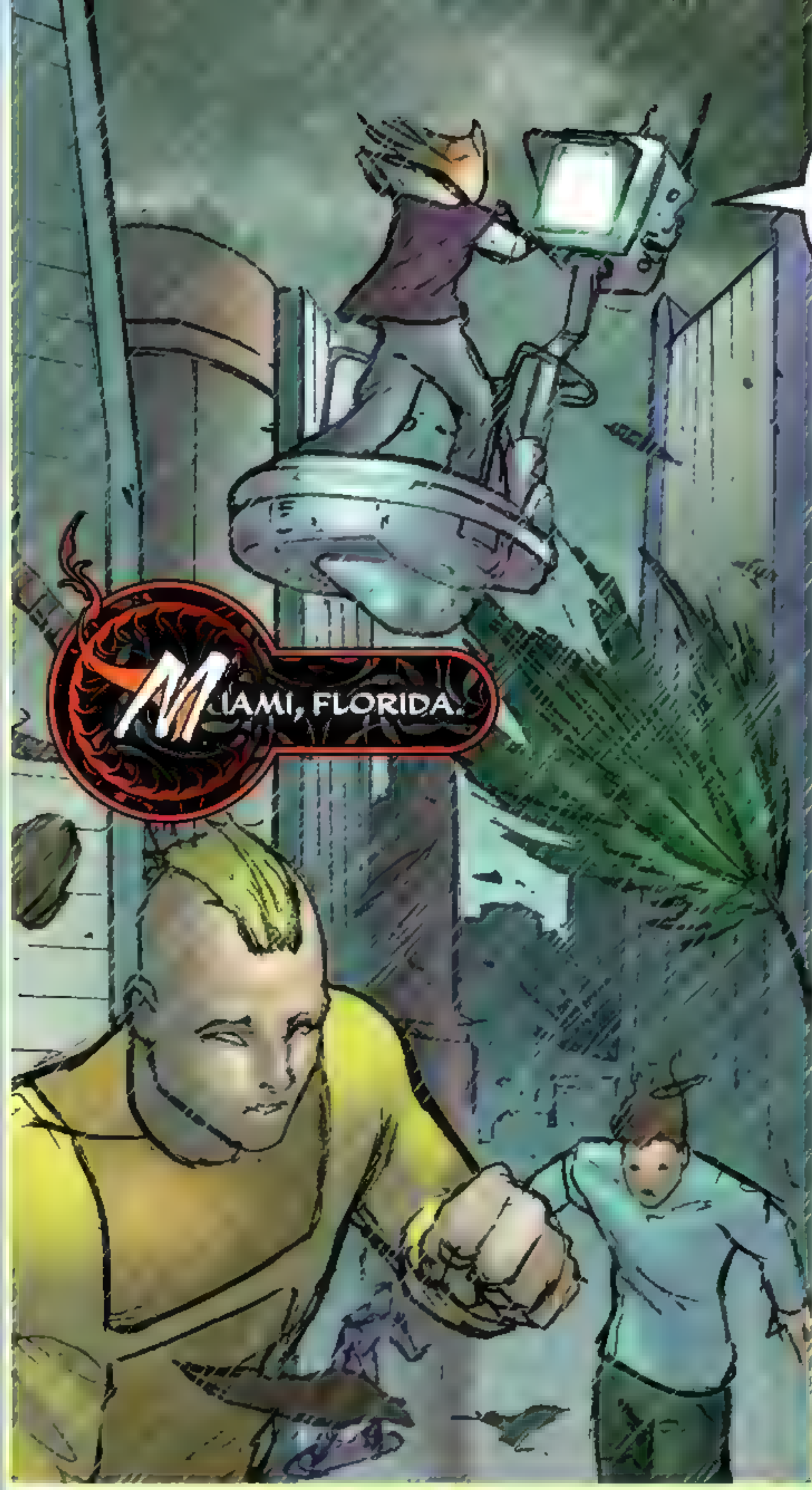
I DID.

NOT SURE,
BUT I'M THINKING
IT MIGHT BE THE KEY
TO STOPPING GRACE
FROM **DESTROYING**
EVERYTHING.

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



I'M THINKING
WE ALL MIGHT NEED
AN **UPGRADE**.

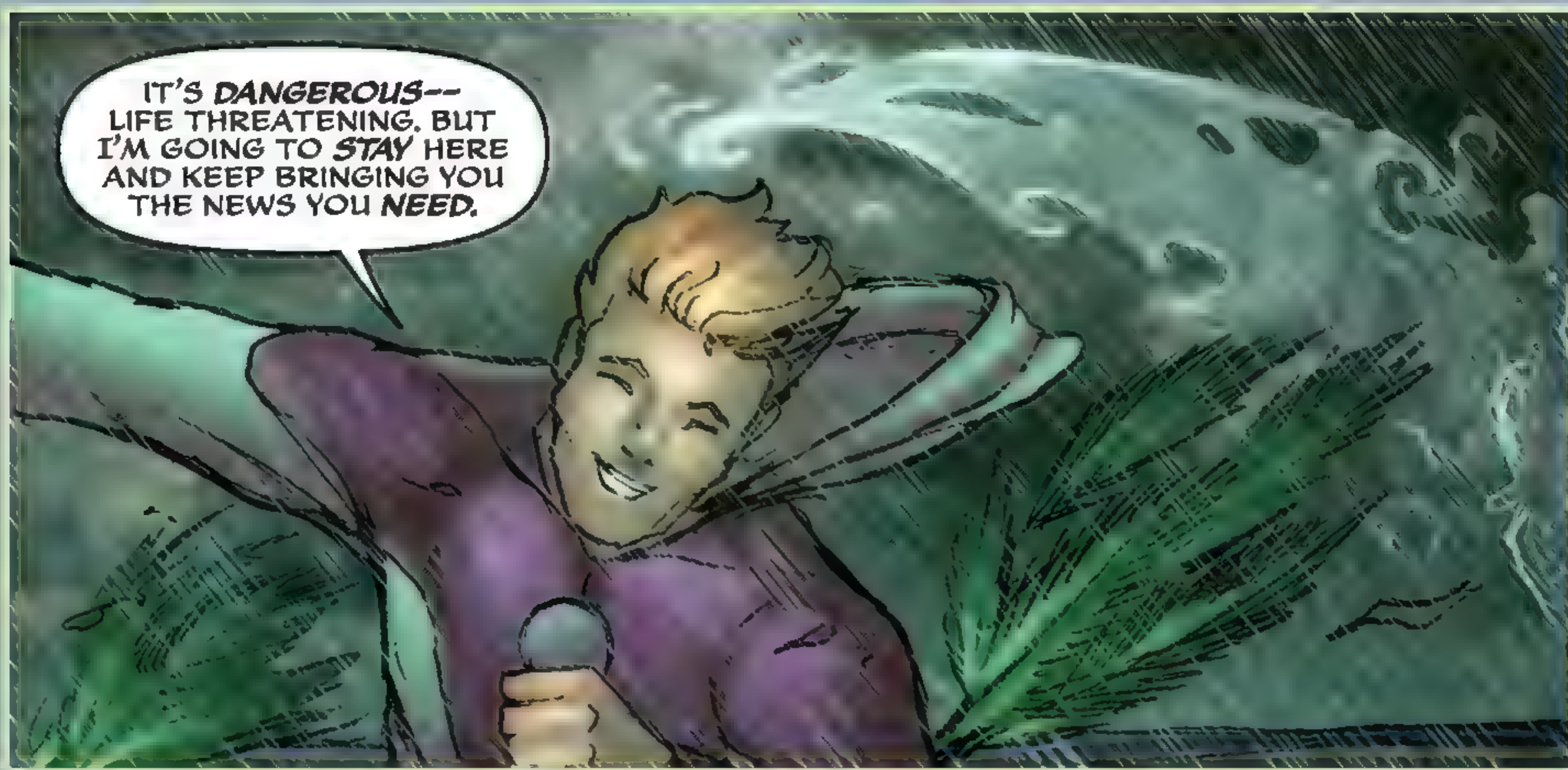


WITH *GUSTS* AS HIGH AS 150 MILES PER HOUR ON THE SHORE, WE ARE APPROACHING **CATEGORY FIVE** STATUS FOR **HURRICANE ROXANNE**.

IN RECENT WEEKS, THE COASTLINE HAS BEEN **BOMBARDED** WITH ONE STORM AFTER ANOTHER, EACH ONE MORE **POWERFUL** THAN THE LAST.



A TRULY **DEVASTATING** PATTERN. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS.



IT'S **DANGEROUS**-- LIFE THREATENING. BUT I'M GOING TO **STAY** HERE AND KEEP BRINGING YOU THE NEWS YOU **NEED**.



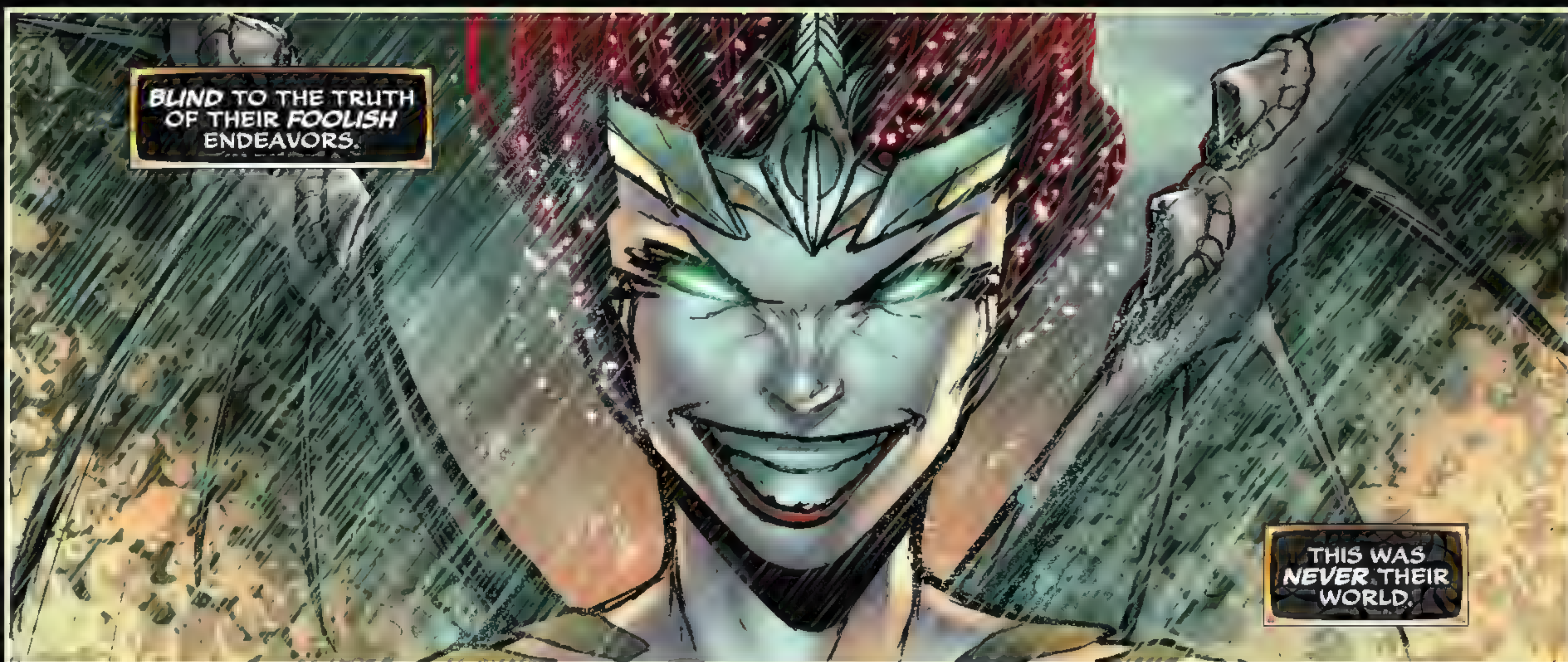
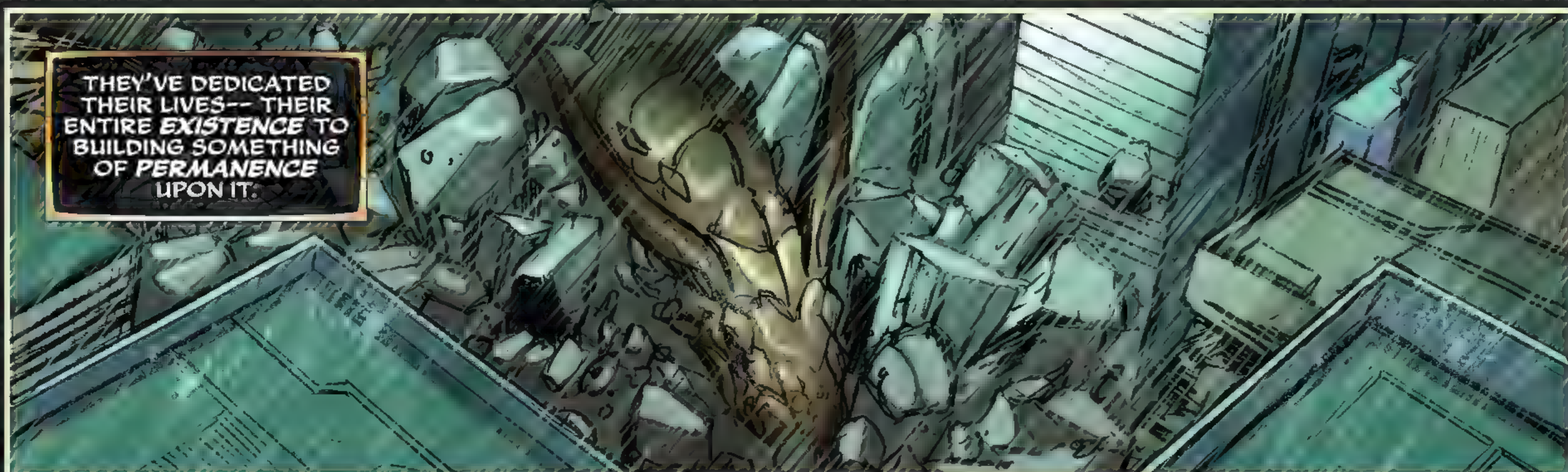
AHHH!



RAAAWWR

ROOOOAR





IT IS, WAS,
AND ALWAYS WILL
BE-- OURS.

WRRRAAAA!!!

GRANK

REEEE!

SKREEE



M I C H A E L T U R N E R ' S

SOULFIRE

#5
OF 9
COVER A





VOL. 4

#5

OF 9
COVER B

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™



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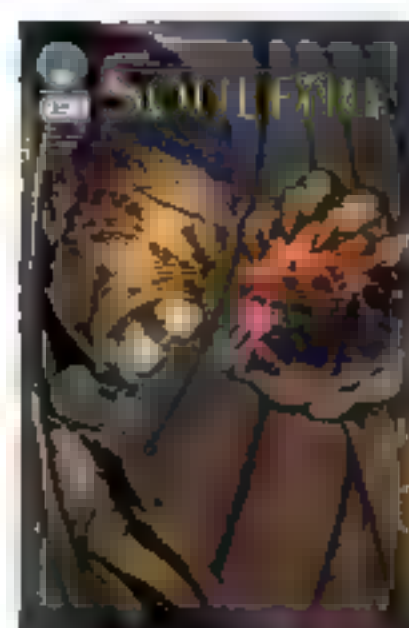
pencils—
GIUSEPPE CAFARO (PGS 1-14)
MIKE DeBALFO (PGS 15-20)

colors—
NEI RUFFINO

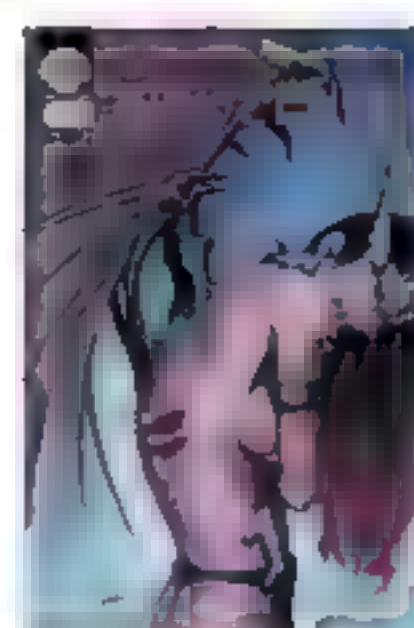
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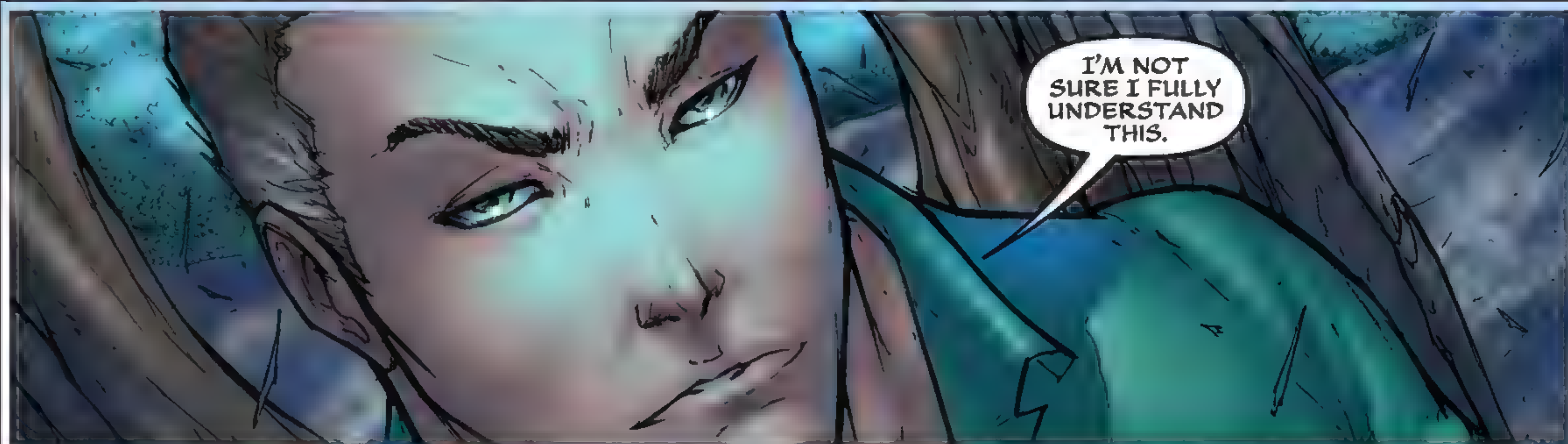
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THE STORY SO FAR...

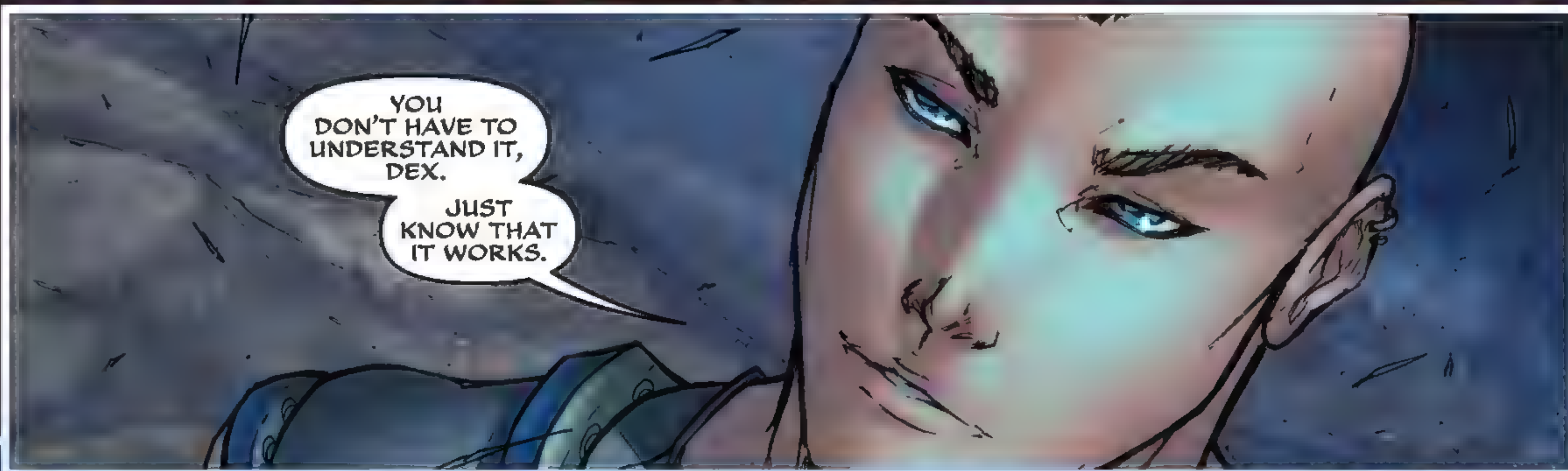
The group decides to take a chance at reviving the unconscious Benoist by doing the unthinkable and fusing magic and technology, much to Faye's misgivings. But, the strain of their action begins to tear apart the fabric of their alliance. However, upon successfully bringing their ally back, they discover the world around them is in even worse danger. Grace, consumed by the spirit of Oris, has summoned the power of the elemental dragons--forces of nature that could lay waste to both mankind and magic alike...



I DON'T
KNOW,
TEAGUE.



I'M NOT
SURE I FULLY
UNDERSTAND
THIS.



YOU
DON'T HAVE TO
UNDERSTAND IT,
DEX.

JUST
KNOW THAT
IT WORKS.

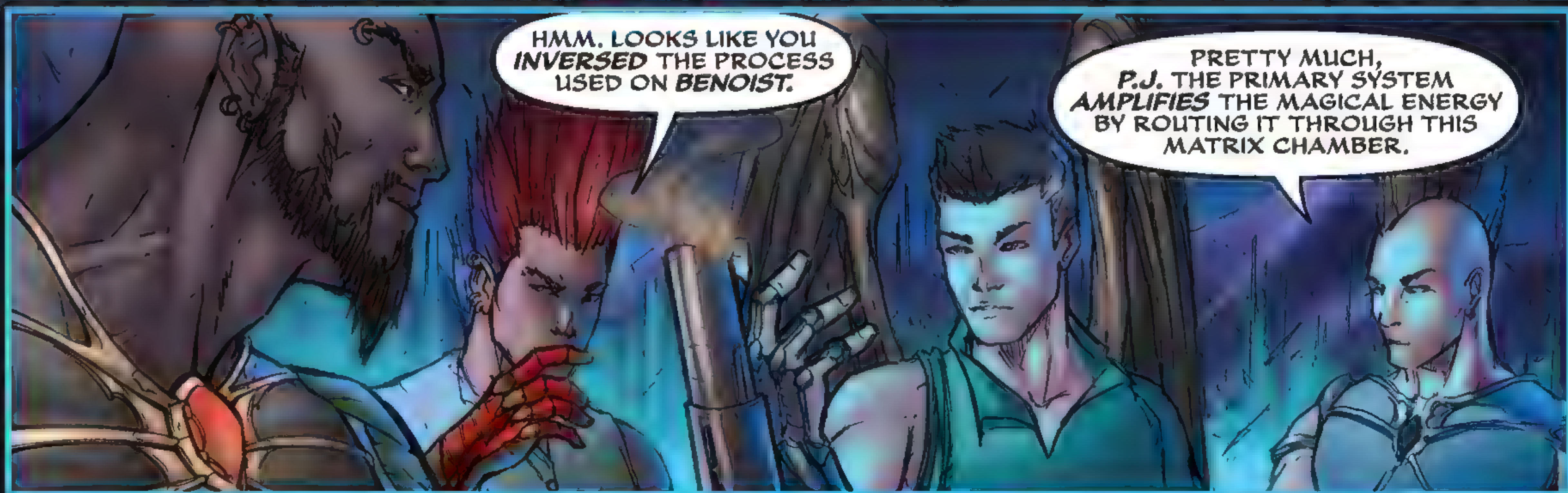


IF
YOU SAY
SO.

I DO. NOW,
HOW ABOUT
YOU GIVE IT
A TRY?



DAAAAAMN!



HMM. LOOKS LIKE YOU
INVERSED THE PROCESS
USED ON *BENOIST*.

PRETTY MUCH,
P.J. THE PRIMARY SYSTEM
AMPLIFIES THE MAGICAL ENERGY
BY ROUTING IT THROUGH THIS
MATRIX CHAMBER.



IT SURE FELT...
AMPLIFIED.

FAYE,
WANT TO
TRY IT?

NO. I
HAVE ALL THE
POWER I NEED.
OR WANT.

I DON'T
LIKE THIS.



COMBINING THE
SCIENCE OF THE
OUTSIDE WORLD WITH
OUR MAGIC *ABANDONS*
EVERYTHING WE
BELIEVE IN.

DOING IT TO
SAVE *BENOIST* WAS
ONE THING, BUT THIS IS
ONLY ABOUT *POWER*
AND *DESTRUCTION*.

WE AREN'T
LOOKING TO DESTROY
ANYTHING, *FAYE*.

WE'RE
TRYING TO SAVE
THE WORLD.

AND FROM
THE LOOKS OF
THINGS--



--WE'D
BETTER
HURRY.

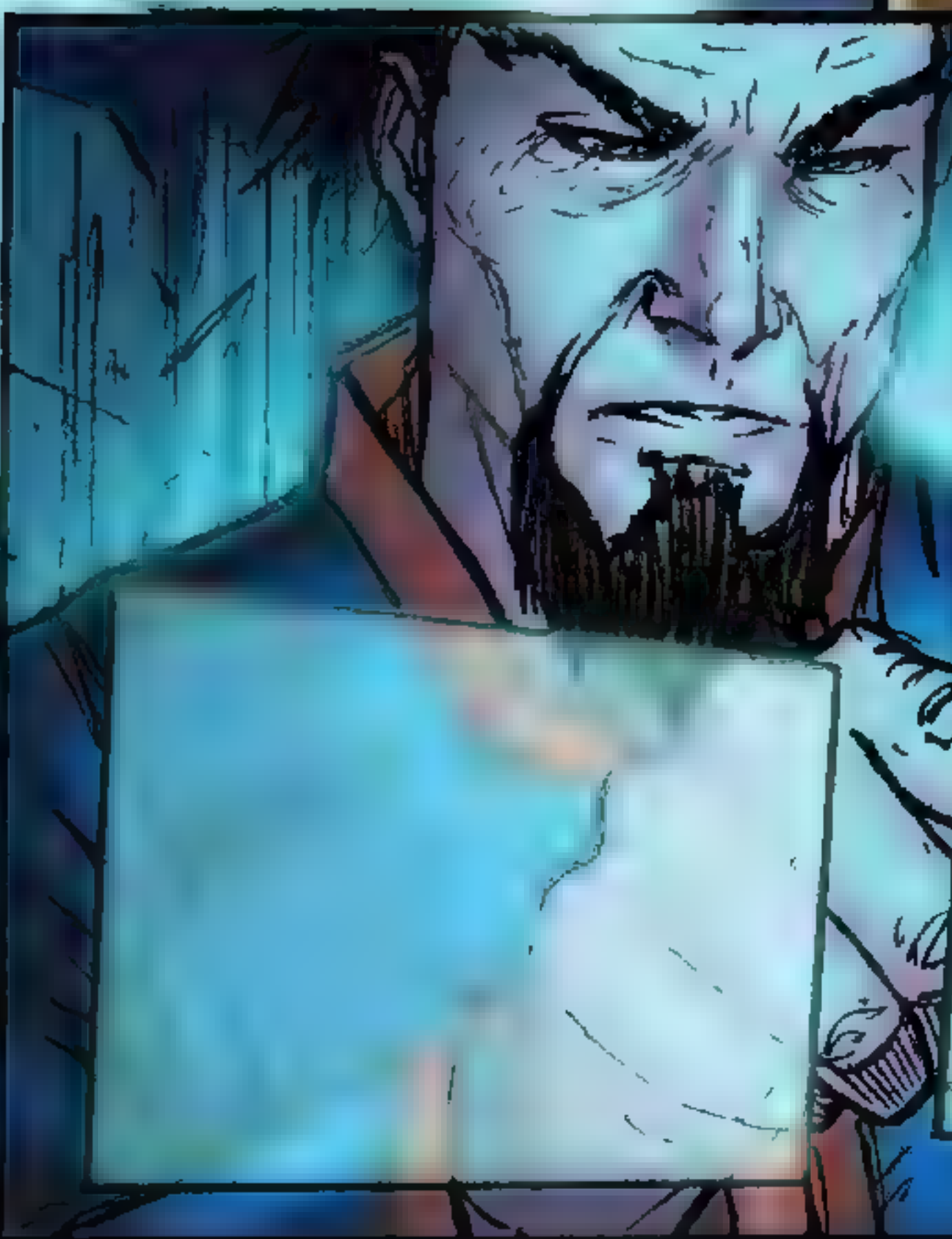
IT'S
GETTING
BAD OUT
THERE.

HURRICANE VICTORIA ROCKED THE
FLORIDA COAST, ALMOST WIPING
AWAY THE CITY OF MIAMI.

THE FREAK WILDFIRE HAS
CONSUMED OVER 200,000
ACRES OF TREES SO FAR,
COMPLETELY DECIMATING
NEW ZEALAND'S MOST
PICTURESQUE REGION.

MEASURING AN ASTOUNDING 9.6 ON
THE RICHTER SCALE, THE RECENT
QUAKE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
THOUSANDS OF DEATHS, MANY
MORE INJURIES, AND CERTAINLY
BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN DAMAGES.

CITIZENS OF VENICE HAVE APPARENTLY
FINALLY LOST THEIR LONGTIME BATTLE
AGAINST THE SEA, AS VIRTUALLY EVERY
INCH OF THE CITY IS UNDERWATER NOW.
ALL RESIDENTS ARE BEING EVACUATED.



IT APPEARS
GRACE HAS
MORE THAN FIRE
ON HER SIDE.

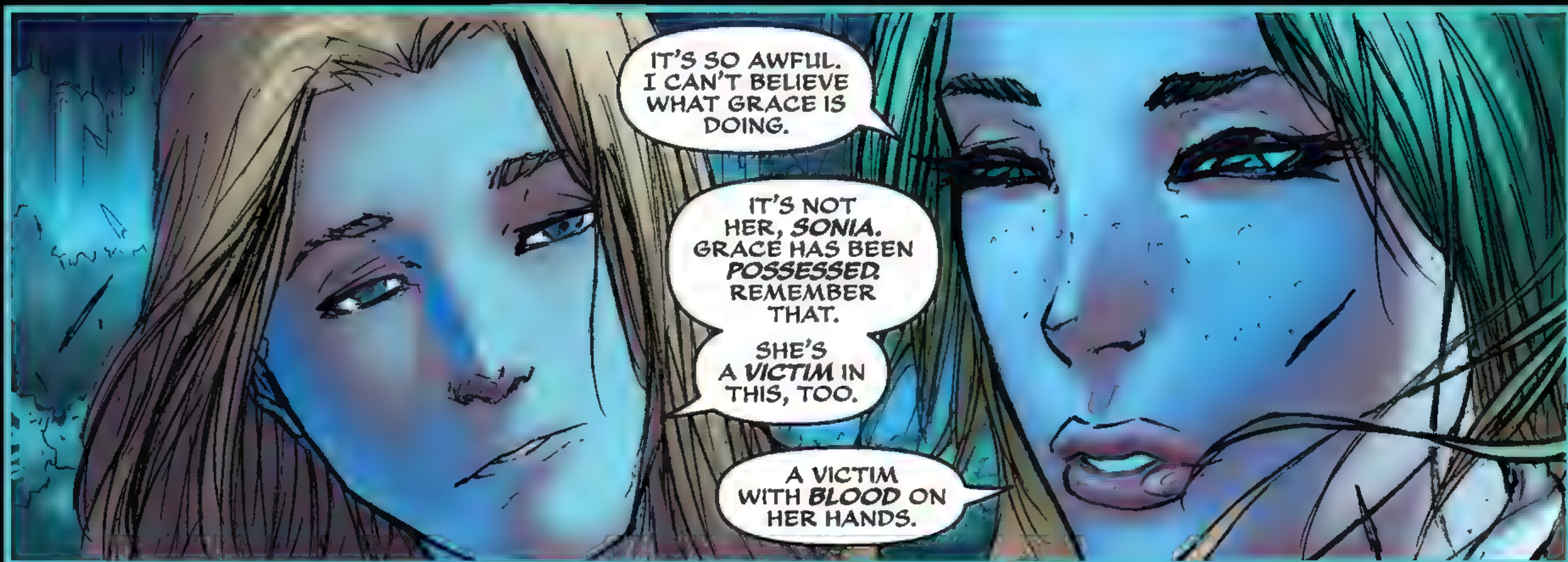
A DRAGON
FOR EVERY
ELEMENT... FIRE,
WATER, EARTH,
AND AIR.



I DON'T GET
IT. WHY AREN'T
PEOPLE TOTALLY
FREAKING OUT AT
THE SIGHT OF
DRAGONS?



BECAUSE
IT'S BEYOND THEIR
COMPREHENSION. THEY
SEE ONLY WHAT THEY
CAN UNDERSTAND.

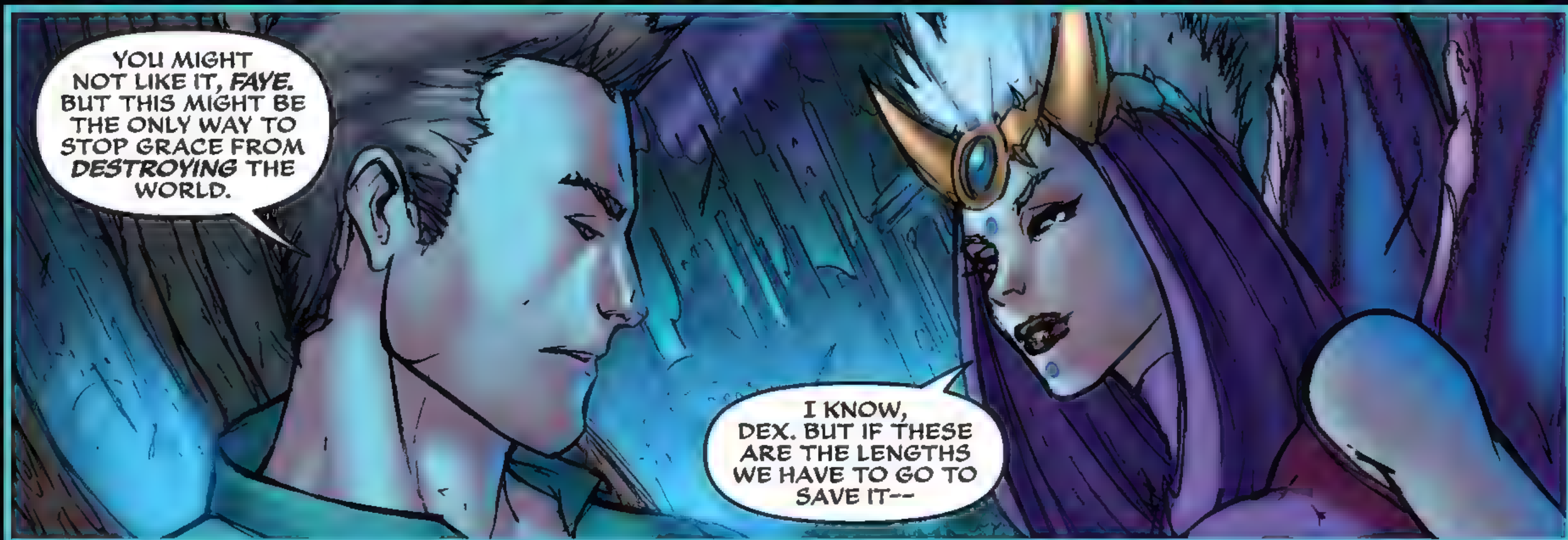


IT'S SO AWFUL.
I CAN'T BELIEVE
WHAT GRACE IS
DOING.

IT'S NOT
HER, *SONIA*.
GRACE HAS BEEN
POSSESSED.
REMEMBER
THAT.

SHE'S
A *VICTIM* IN
THIS, TOO.

A *VICTIM*
WITH *BLOOD* ON
HER HANDS.



YOU MIGHT
NOT LIKE IT, *FAYE*.
BUT THIS MIGHT BE
THE ONLY WAY TO
STOP GRACE FROM
DESTROYING THE
WORLD.

I KNOW,
DEX. BUT IF THESE
ARE THE LENGTHS
WE HAVE TO GO TO
SAVE IT--



--WHAT
KIND OF
WORLD WILL
WE HAVE
LEFT?



SO,
WHAT ARE WE
DOING?

WHAT WE HAVE
BEEN DOING, *REN*.
PREPARE TO FACE
ARMAGEDDON.

CAN I GO
NEXT?



SWEET.

KICK ASS!

LATER.

SO, THE MAGICAL ENERGY POWERS YOUR CYBERNETIC ENHANCEMENTS?

YEP. GIVES ME THE JUICE I NEED TO PERFORM.

AND WHAT KIND OF ENHANCEMENTS ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

GRACE WAS ALWAYS SO HEADSTRONG. NO FEAR. SHE'D GRAB A SPEAR AND FLY INTO THE FRAY, NO MATTER WHAT.

I KNOW SHE NEVER STOPPED TRYING TO DRAG ME INTO HER AGENDA.

A GOOD CAUSE, SURE. BUT TALK ABOUT STUBBORN.

HOW COME YOU DIDN'T GET IN ON THE UPGRADE, PILI?

THIS WAR STRETCHES BEYOND THE PHYSICAL, P.J.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

WE ARE DEALING WITH ENERGIES THAT REST AT THE FOUNDATION OF OUR UNIVERSE. THE VERY FORCES THAT SPARKED ALL OF EXISTENCE.

DID YOU HEAR THAT, MAL? MAYBE, THIS IS MORE THAN EVEN WE CAN HANDLE.

MAL?

LISTEN TO THEM.



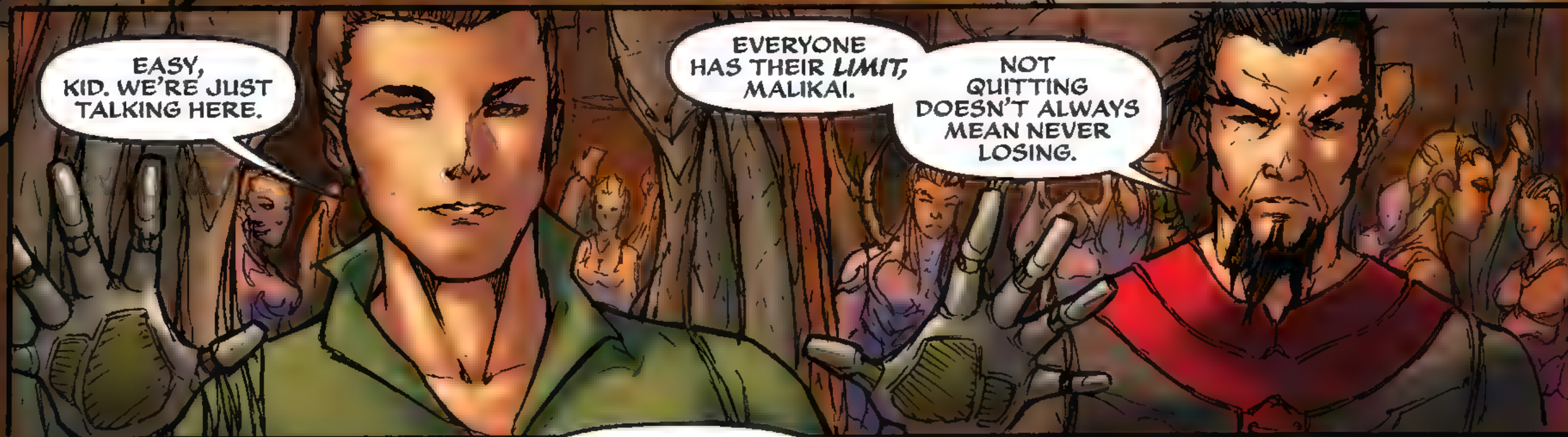
STOP IT!

STOP
TALKING ABOUT
GRACE LIKE SHE
IS ALREADY
DEAD!

WE KNOW
THAT, MAL. BUT WE
MUST BE PREPARED TO
FACE THE FACT THAT
SHE MAY BE *WORSE*
THAN DEAD, NOW.

I'M NOT
READY TO FACE
THAT. GRACE HAS
MORE WILLPOWER
THAN ANYONE
I'VE EVER
MET.

SHE'S FOUGHT
WORSE THAN THIS
BEFORE.



EASY,
KID. WE'RE JUST
TALKING HERE.

EVERYONE
HAS THEIR *LIMIT*,
MALIKAI.

NOT
QUITTING
DOESN'T ALWAYS
MEAN NEVER
LOSING.



SHE HAS
ALWAYS BEEN THE
STRONG ONE BEFORE.
ALWAYS DOING WHAT
WAS NECESSARY.

NOW,
IT'S OUR
TURN.



IS THIS WHERE
YOU COME TO *HIDE*
AWAY FROM YOUR
KING TO BE?

BUT
YOU *ARE*
HIDING, FAYE.
FROM *WHAT*
THEN?

I DO NOT
HIDE FROM
SARIN.



DID TODAY'S
DEMONSTRATIONS
BOTHER YOU THAT
MUCH?

EVER SINCE I
TOOK UPON THE CROWN
AS *QUEEN* OF THE *EVERLANDS*,
I HAVE DONE MY BEST TO KEEP
OUR KINGDOM SAFE---
AND *PURE*.

NOW AT THE
FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE,
I AM ABANDONING ALL OF
THAT BY ALLOWING THIS
TECHNOLOGY TO *INFECT*
OUR WAY OF LIFE.

HARD TIMES
CALL FOR HARD
CHOICES.

EVERYTHING
IS CHANGING,
DEX.

IT
ALWAYS
DOES.

MAYBE
YOU'VE BEEN
IN THE *EVERLANDS*
SO LONG THAT
YOU *FORGOT*
THAT.

ELSEWHERE.

IS MY NEPHEW
FINDING *SOLACE*
IN THE THRONE
ROOM?

I'M
THINKING,
ALRIGHT.

THINKING
OF THE MANY
WAYS I COULD PAY
TEAGUE BACK FOR
BETRAYING ME
LIKE THIS.

DO NOT
LET HIS ACTIONS
TROUBLE YOU,
SARIN.

IF GRACE IS AS
STRONG AS YOU SAY,
YOU SHALL NEED ALL
THE *FIREPOWER* YOU
CAN GET.

EXACTLY,
NISABA. MY *FIREPOWER*.
NOT THEIRS.

FAYE
AND HER
CREW DO NOT
WANT ME AS
THEIR KING.

MY *BIRTHRIGHT*
CAN ONLY GRANT
ME SO MUCH. POWER
IS WHAT WILL KEEP
ME ON THIS
THRONE.

THESE NEW
WEAPONS WERE TO BE THE
THING THAT KEEPS THE SCALES
TIPPED IN MY FAVOR. HERE
AND ELSEWHERE.

WHEN THE
TIME COMES, THEY
WILL FIGHT AGAINST ME,
TRYING TO SAVE GRACE
OVER STOPPING
HER.

THEN
PERHAPS YOU
NEED SOMEONE
ELSE WHO SEES
GRACE FOR WHAT
SHE HAS TRULY
BECOME...

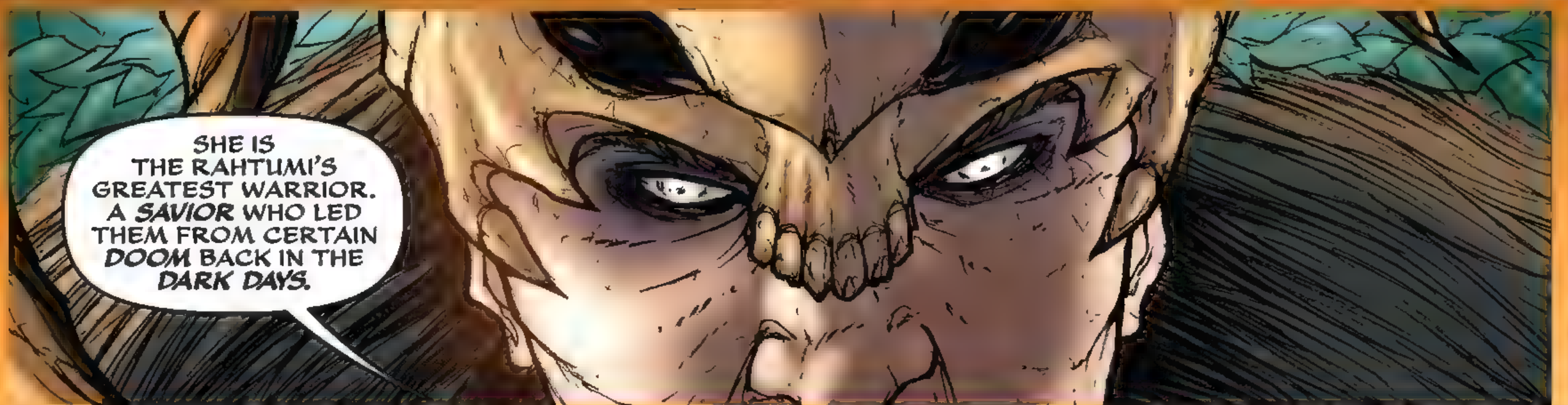


...A
DEMON OF
CHAOS.

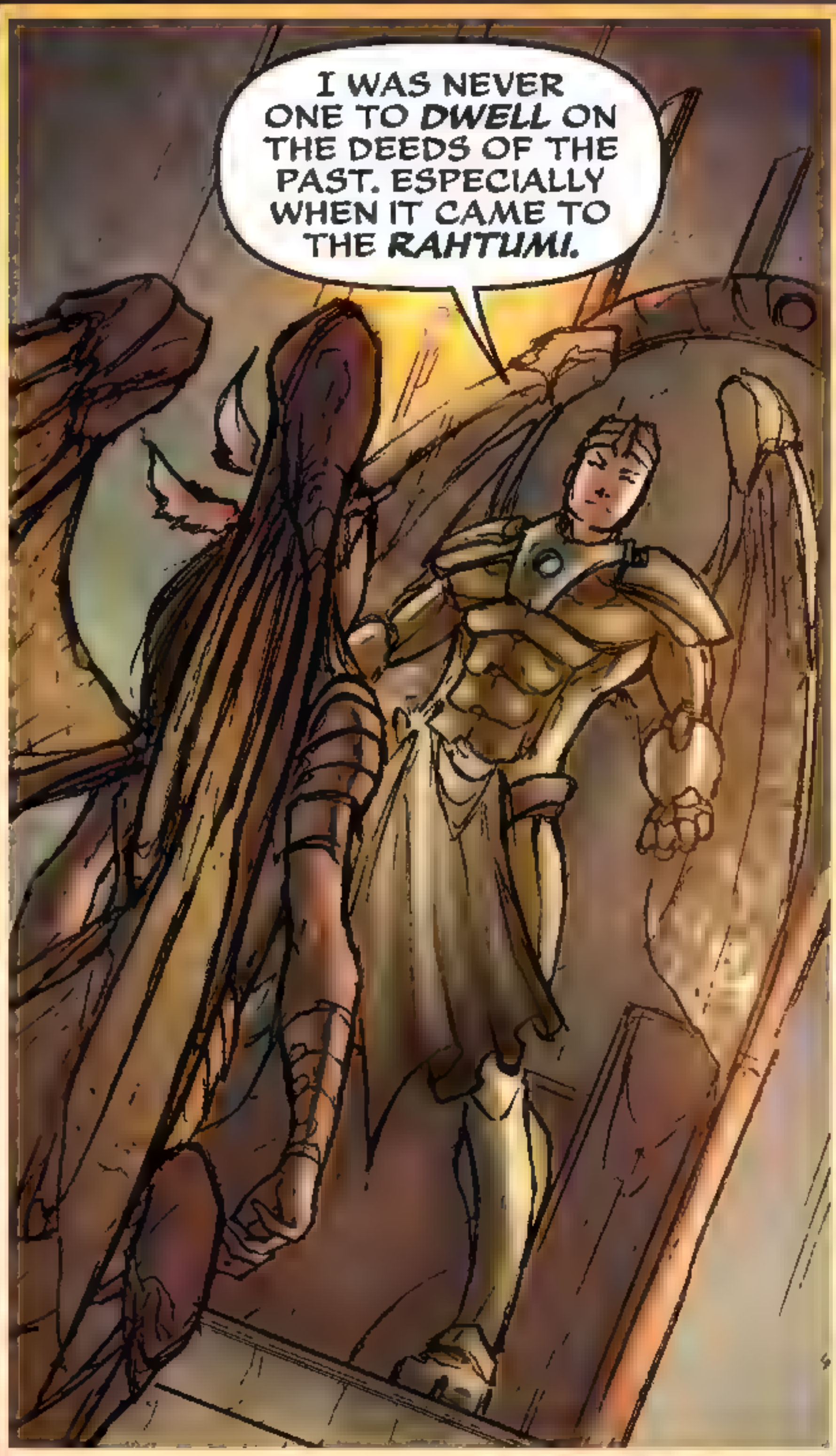


WHO ARE YOU?
ANOTHER RAHTUMI
PRINCESS?

MY NAME IS
MIYA. AND, I AM
NO PRINCESS.



SHE IS
THE RAHTUMI'S
GREATEST WARRIOR.
A SAVIOR WHO LED
THEM FROM CERTAIN
DOOM BACK IN THE
DARK DAYS.



I WAS NEVER
ONE TO DWELL ON
THE DEEDS OF THE
PAST. ESPECIALLY
WHEN IT CAME TO
THE RAHTUMI.



I'M NOT HERE
FOR THE PAST.
I'M HERE FOR
THE FUTURE.

THE CHAOS
SPREADS, GROWING IN
POWER. I STOPPED IT
BEFORE. I AM HERE TO
STOP IT AGAIN.

LATER.

WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?!

MIYA IS ANSWERING THE CALL TO BATTLE, JUST LIKE THE REST OF US.

SHE TRIED TO KILL ME WHEN THE CHAOS WAS CONTROLLING ME. IF YOU THINK I AM LETTING HER ANYWHERE NEAR GRACE, YOU ARE CRAZY.

MY FIGHT IS NOT WITH YOU THIS TIME. BE THANKFUL FOR THAT.

I KNOW YOU LIKE TO THINK OF YOURSELF AS SOMETHING SPECIAL, MALIKAI. BUT SUCH DECISIONS ARE NOT UP TO YOU.

IN FACT, I'M INCLINED TO KEEP YOU HERE SO YOU WON'T BE TEMPTED TO INTERFERE AGAIN.



IF YOU MEAN KEEPING YOU FROM KILLING GRACE-- THEN DAMN RIGHT, I'LL INTERFERE.

YOUR MEMORY OF WHAT WAS IS BLINDING YOU TO THE TRUTH.

SHE TOLD US HERSELF, MALIKAI.

SHE IS NOT GRACE ANYMORE...



"...SHE IS ORIS,
THE DEMON OF
CHAOS."



SOME
SHOW OF
POWER--



--ATTACKING
SOMETHING
THAT CAN'T
FIGHT BACK.





YOU
HAVE TO STOP
THIS!

FIGHTING ME
IS POINTLESS.

YOU ARE
ONLY FEEDING
THE BEAST.



I'M NOT
TALKING TO YOU,
WITCH.

GRACE
IS STILL IN THERE,
SOMEWHERE.

YOU SAY
HOW POWERFUL
YOU ARE, BUT YOU ARE
NOTHING WITHOUT
HER BODY.



HER BODY?



IT'S MUCH
MORE THAN
THAT.

GRACE
BELONGS TO
ME NOW. SHE
IS ME.

I AM
HER.



WE ARE
CHAOS!

M I C H A E L T U R N E R ' S
SOULFIRE





VOL. 4

#6

OF 8
COVER B

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE™



Net

VOLUME FOUR

END OF DAYS

plot—
J.T. KRUL & FRANK MASTROMAURO

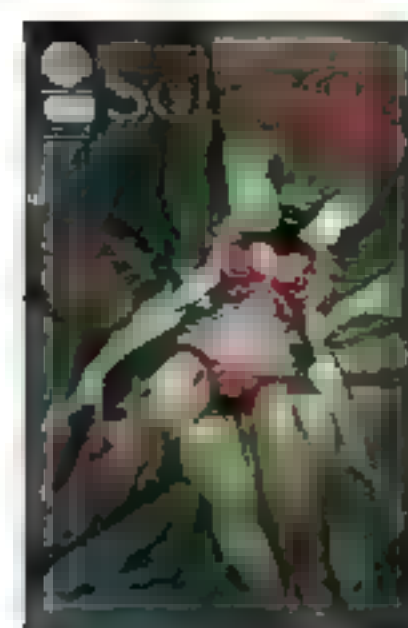
story—
J.T. KRUL

pencils—
GIUSEPPE CAFARO (PGS 1-14)
MIKE DeBALFO (PGS 15-20)

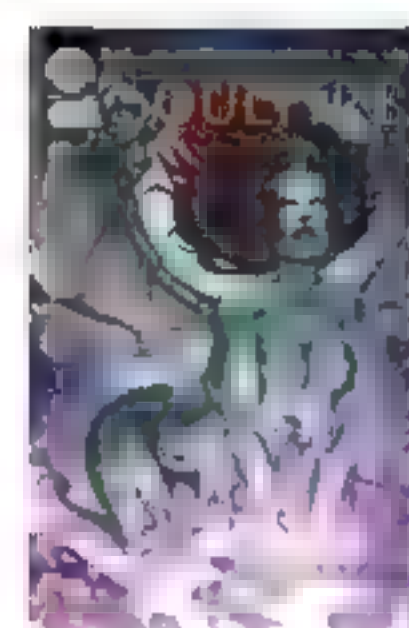
colors—
NEI RUFFINO

letters—
JOSH REED

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ, FRANK MASTROMAURO
Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD
Lettering Font Designed by: DREAMER DESIGN



A: Direct Edition:
MIKE DeBALFO &
NEI RUFFINO



B: Direct Edition:
NEI RUFFINO

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THE STORY SO FAR...

After Teague's "betrayal", Sarin attempts to assert his power in order to reflect his perceived might as King, and he finds an unlikely ally in the form of Miya, the warrior from the past with her own personal demons. Meanwhile, Malikai and the group boost their technological weaponry in the hopes of saving Grace's body from its possessed soul. However, the group underestimated the deadly threat of Oris--and now must contend with a foe of catastrophic proportions...



THE WORLD
USED TO SEEM
SO ORDINARY
TO ME.

MUNDANE.

BLAND.

POINTLESS.

EMPTY.

THEN I
SAW THE
LIGHT AND
BECAME A
BELIEVER.

THERE IS A
SECRET ENERGY
ALL AROUND US—
FLOWING THROUGH
THE WORLD. IT'S
MAGIC.

STILL, I NEVER
THOUGHT IT COULD
BE LIKE THIS.

THAT SOMETHING
SO WONDERFUL—



—COULD ALSO BE
SO DESTRUCTIVE.

THIS DEMON
USED TO BE GRACE,
ONE OF MY CLOSEST
FRIENDS, A CHAMPION
FOR THE WORLD OF
MAGIC.

NOW, SHE IS
ORIS, A FORCE OF
TOTAL CHAOS.

HER, AND THESE
CATASTROPHIC
DRAGONS, THEY
ARE TRYING TO
WIPE OUT ALL
LIFE.



AND RIGHT NOW,
I DON'T SEE HOW
WE ARE GOING TO
STOP THEM.

YOU'RE
STRONGER
THAN YOU LOOK,
MIYA. I'LL GIVE
YOU THAT.

FUNNY,
YOU ARE
NOT.

NOT SMART--
INSULTING YOUR **KING**
LIKE THAT.

WHO SAID
YOU ARE MY KING,
SARIN? MY HOME IS
NOT IN YOUR
REALM.

IT IS **ALL**
MY REALM. OR
WILL BE.

YOU THINK
I AM HERE TO
SAVE THE WORLD
FOR THEM? I AM
SAVING IT FOR
MYSELF.

IT MIGHT BE
THE BEST YOU CAN
HOPE FOR IN THE END, IS
THAT YOUR **SCORCHED**
BODY LAY ATOP THE
REST OF OURS.



HOW DOES
ONE FIGHT...
AIR?

NNNNN...!



THIS
WHOLE DIVIDE
AND CONQUER
STRATEGY ISN'T
LOOKING SO
GOOD, MAL!

GRAWR



UH-OH.

SPLOOSH



MAL!

P.J.,
WE HAVE TO GET
OVER THERE AND
HELP HIM!

LOVE TO,
SONIA.

BUT WE GOT
OUR HANDS FULL
RIGHT HERE.



GOOD THING
I'M HERE TO GIVE
YOU THAT **EXTRA**
HAND--



--AND THEN
SOME.



YEAH,
BENOIST--
MAKE A MOLEHILL
OUT OF THIS
MOUNTAIN.



UM, GUYS?

I DON'T THINK
THIS IS GOING AS
YOU PLANNED.



AT
LEAST THEY'RE
SMALLER.



BUT
THERE'S A
LOT MORE
OF THEM.



YOU ARE
STRONG, BOY. THE
PRECIOUS **SAMUSARA**.
BUT YOU ARE STILL ONLY A
CATALYST-- MERELY THE
SPARK CREATED WHEN
THE LARGER FORCES
COME TOGETHER.

I AM PART
OF THAT LARGER
FORCE.

YOU COULD
HAVE **SURVIVED**
FOR A WHILE. **HIDING**
FROM YOUR FATE. INSTEAD,
HERE YOU ARE. COMING OF
YOUR OWN FREE WILL
INTO THE PATH OF
DESTRUCTION.

FLYING
INTO **OBLIVION**
HEADFIRST.

ALL OF EXISTENCE
BEGAN WITH A SPARK OF
ENERGY— A **CLASHING** OF
THE TWO GREAT FORCES—
ORDER AND **CHAOS**.

MY POWERS
MANIFEST FROM A
PLACE OF ORDER. BUT
THE MAGIC OF THE
WORLD IS **FUELED**
BY BOTH.

I WAS
CONSUMED
BY THE CHAOS
BEFORE. I FELT
ITS **GRIP**.

BUT I
GOT FREE.

SONIA SAID IT
HERSELF: POWER
IS JUST **POWER**.
PERIOD.

AAAAHHH!



THESE
DRAGONS ARE
NOT THE CHAOS!
THEY ARE MERELY
OTHER FORCES IN
THE WORLD!

MORE
ELEMENTS OF
POWER AND
MAGIC!

IF WE'RE
GOING TO STOP
THIS, WE CAN'T
BEAT THEM!

WE HAVE TO
TAKE **CONTROL**
OF THEM!

MIYA!

DEX!

REN!

LET'S BRING
SOME **ORDER**
BACK TO THIS
FIGHT!





RAAAWWRRR!

STILL
DON'T GET IT,
DO YOU?

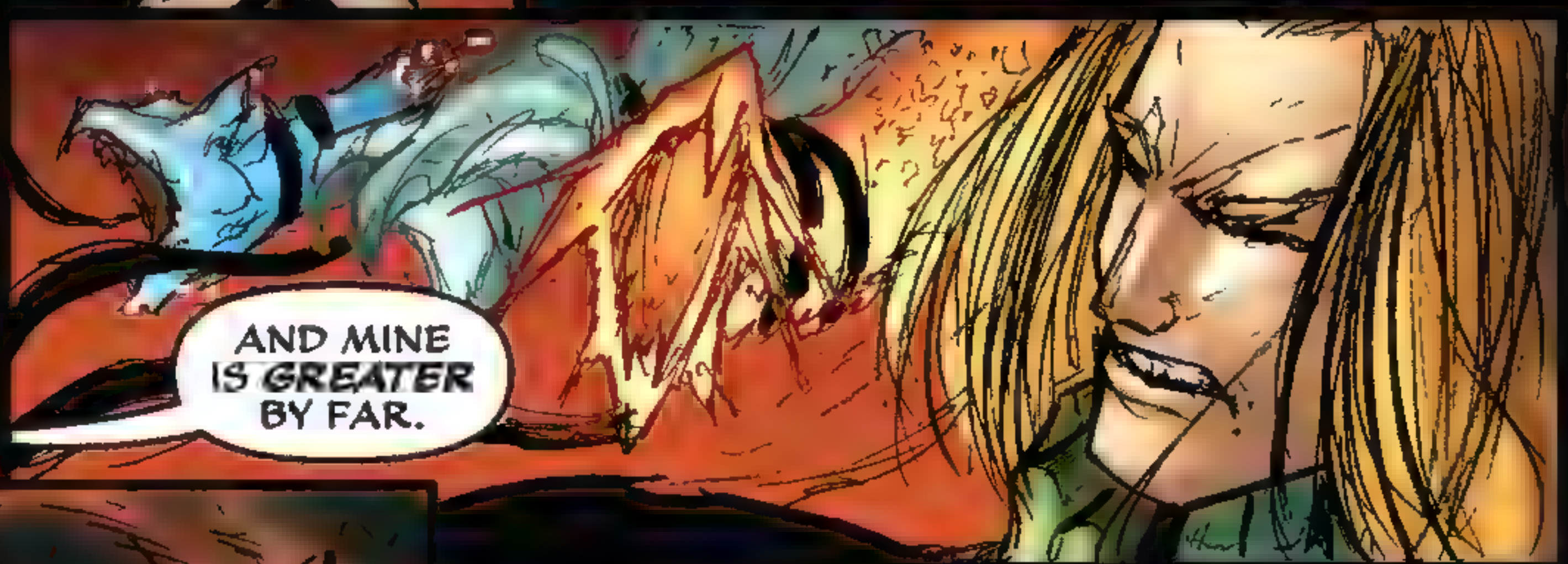
I AM BORN
FROM THE CHAOS
ITSELF.

I AM IN
EVERYTHING.

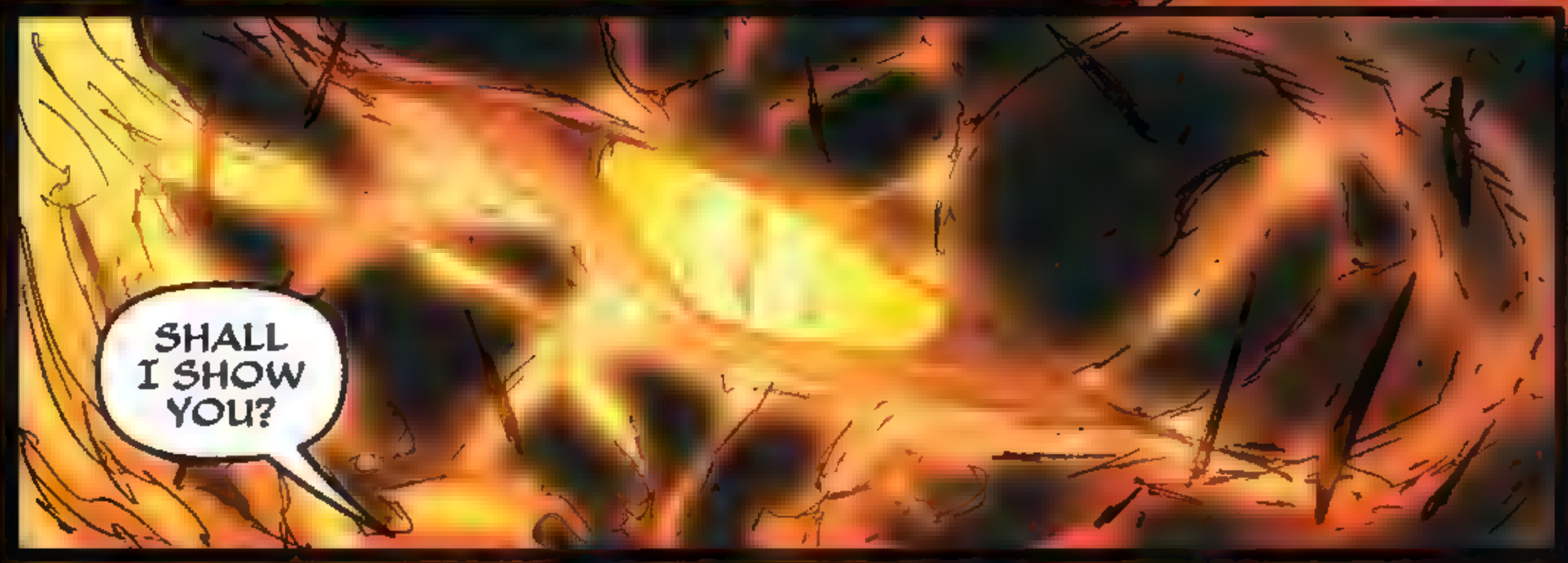
INCLUDING
YOU.



POWER IS
DRAWN TO
POWER.



AND MINE
IS GREATER
BY FAR.

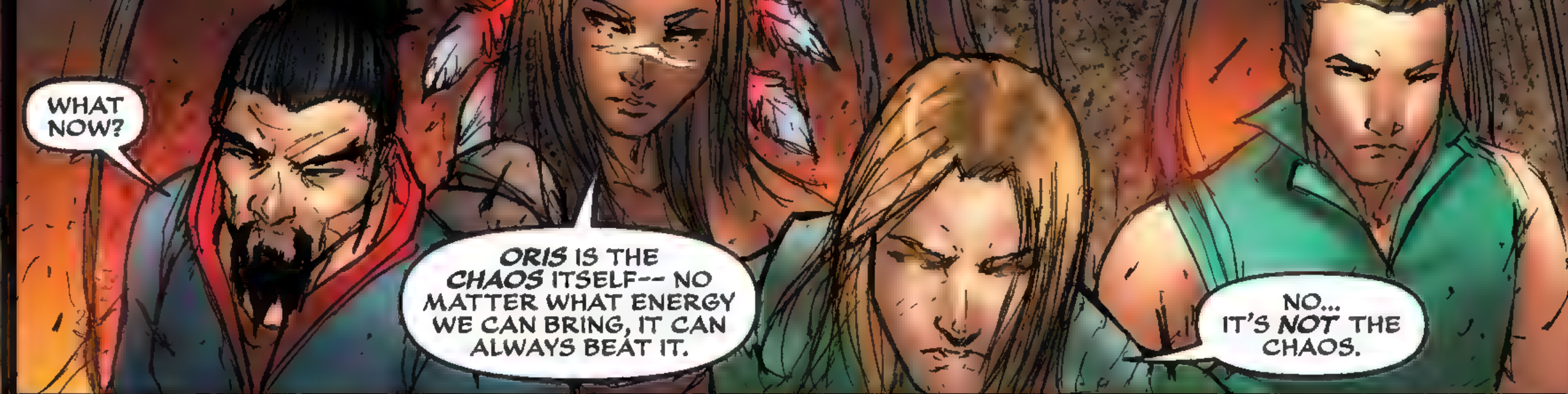


SHALL
I SHOW
YOU?

RAAAWWRRR!



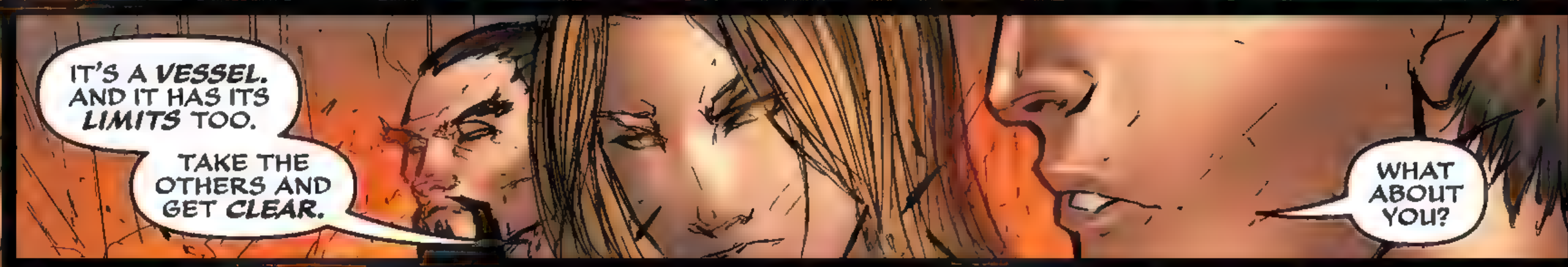
The main illustration shows a city in a state of total destruction. Buildings are crumbling and on fire. A massive, dark, multi-limbed monster with a large, open mouth full of sharp teeth is the central focus, roaring. The scene is filled with intense orange and yellow flames and smoke, creating a chaotic and terrifying atmosphere.



WHAT NOW?

ORIS IS THE CHAOS ITSELF-- NO MATTER WHAT ENERGY WE CAN BRING, IT CAN ALWAYS BEAT IT.

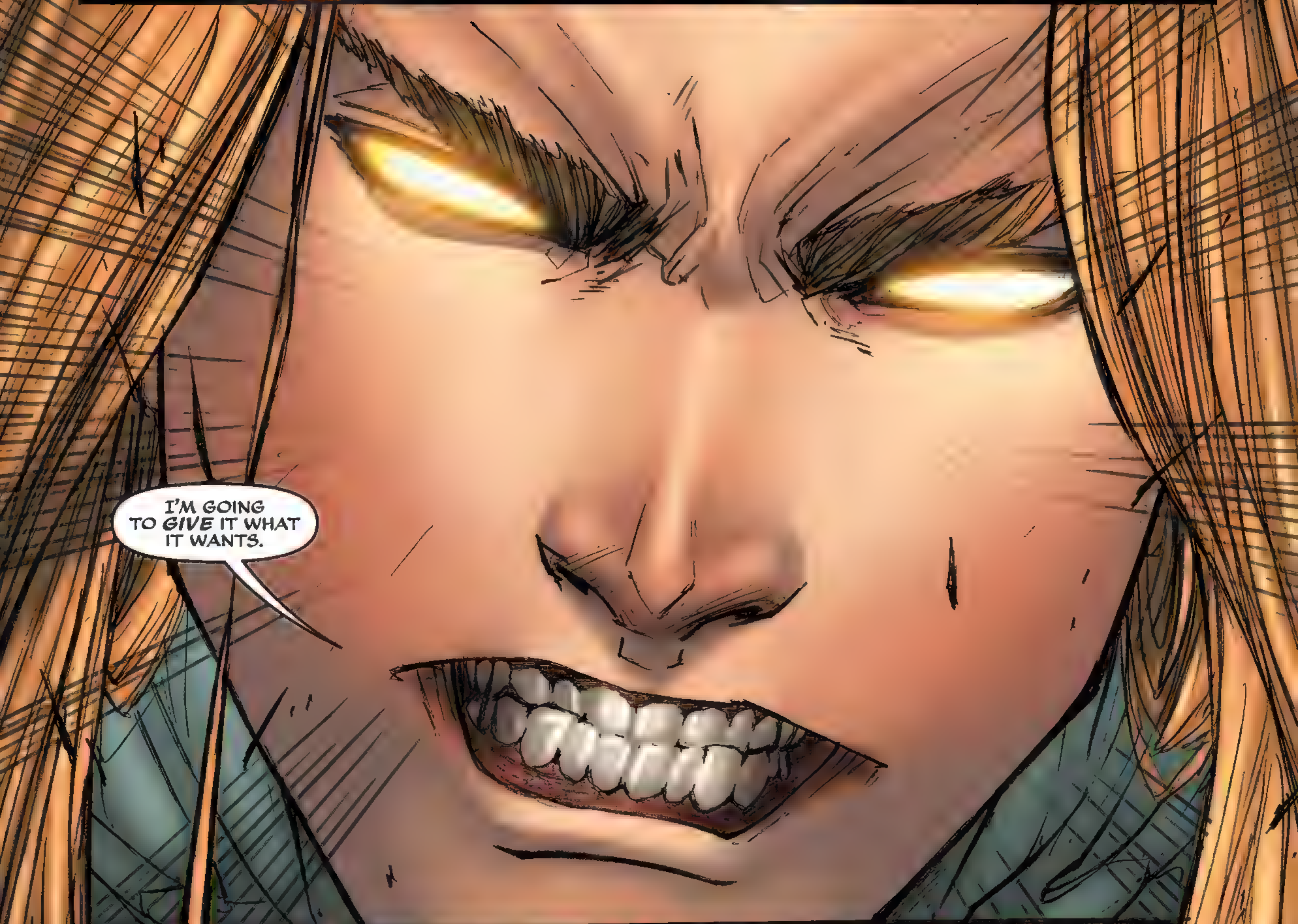
NO... IT'S *NOT* THE CHAOS.



IT'S A *VESSEL*. AND IT HAS ITS *LIMITS* TOO.

TAKE THE OTHERS AND GET *CLEAR*.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?



I'M GOING TO *GIVE* IT WHAT IT WANTS.



MORE POWER.

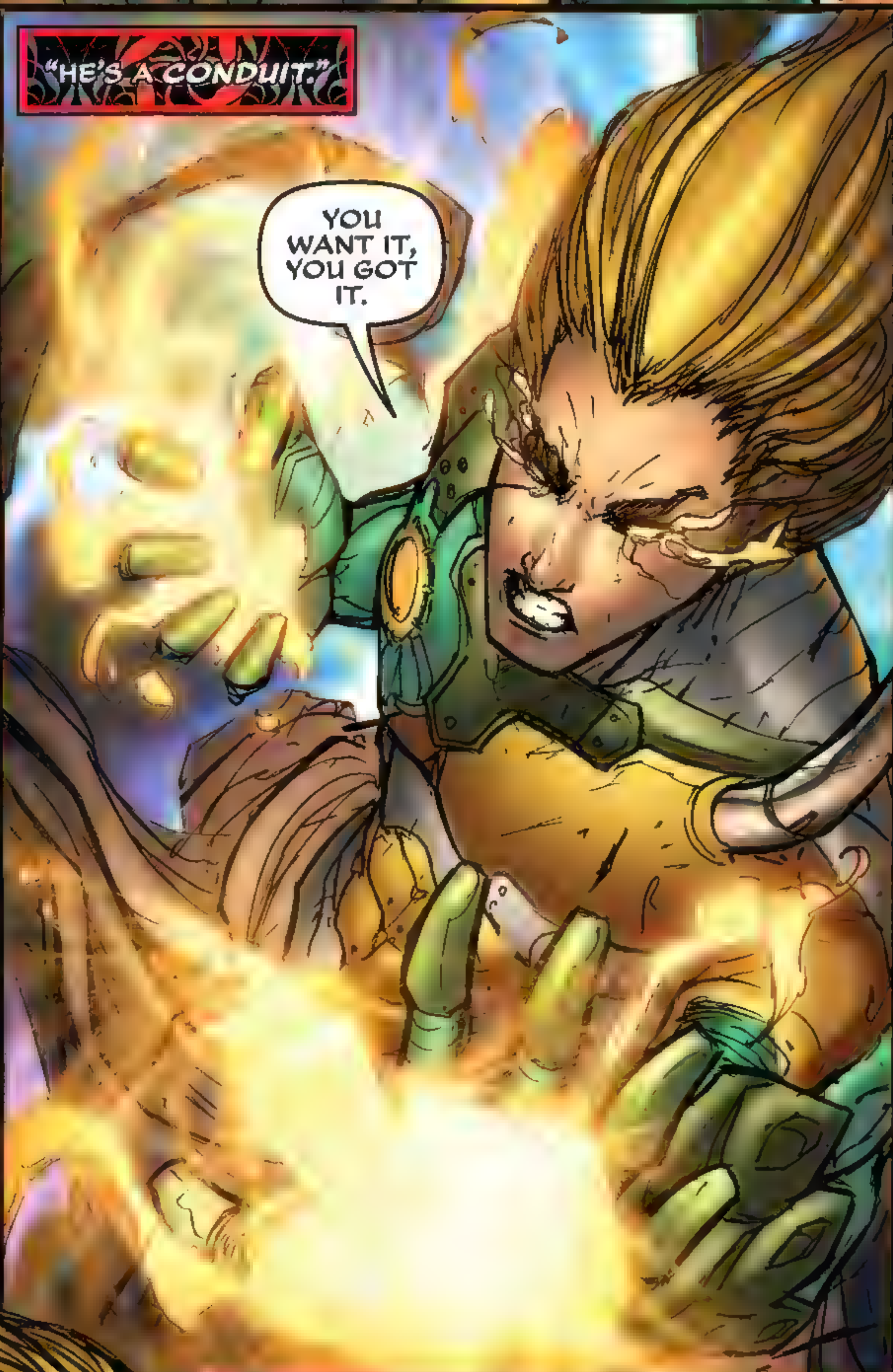


WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WHERE'S MAL?

HE'S DOING WHAT ONLY HE CAN.



NO! LET ME GO!
I CAN'T.
HE'LL DIE!
WHAT MAKES HIM THINK HE CAN DEFEAT IT, NOW? ALONE.
BECAUSE HIS CONNECTION TO THE MAGIC IS UNIQUE.



YOU WANT IT, YOU GOT IT.

"HE'S A CONDUIT."



I CAN FEEL IT... MY MAGIC WANING.
NOT WANING... GOING TO HIM.

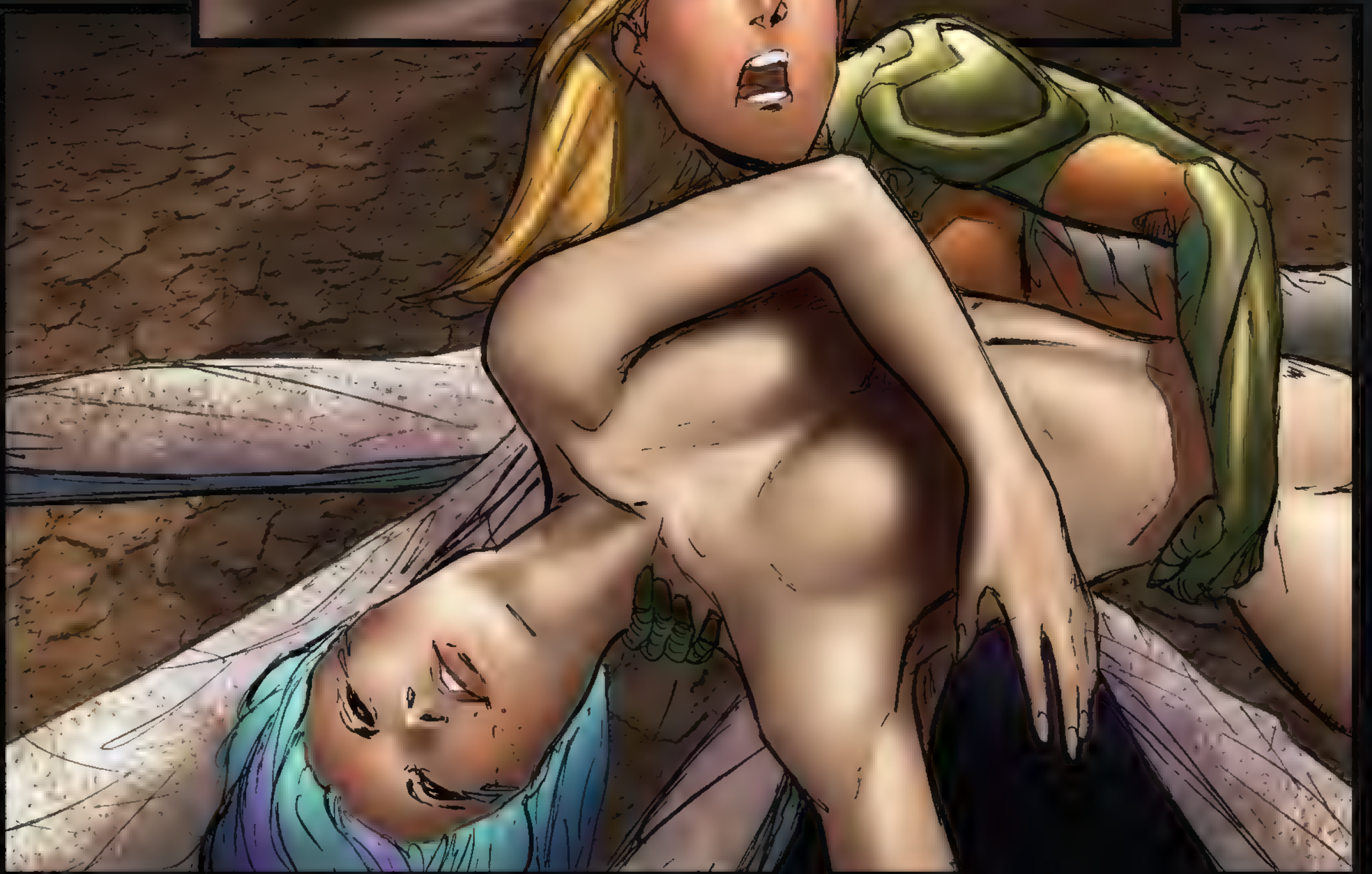
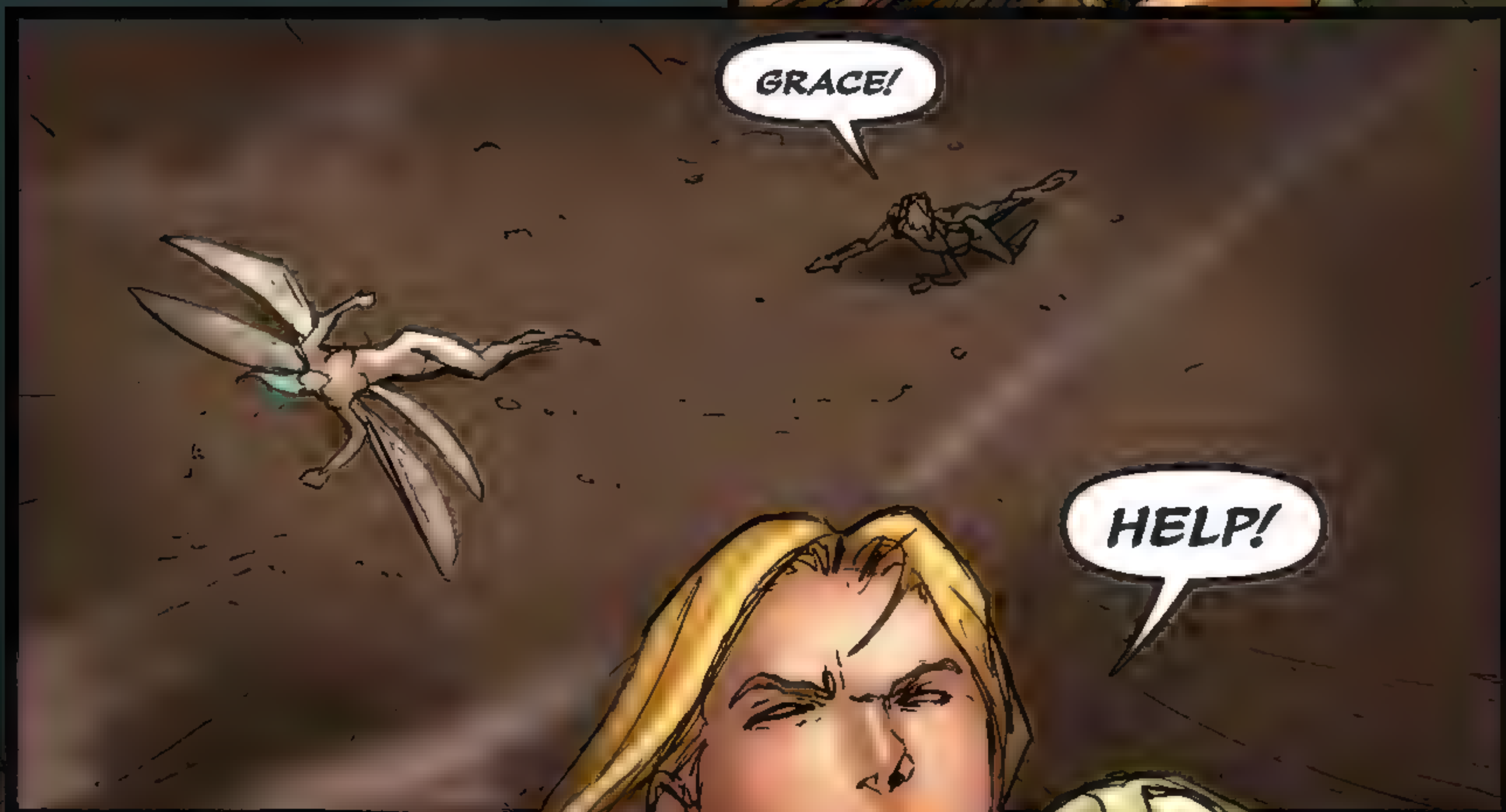
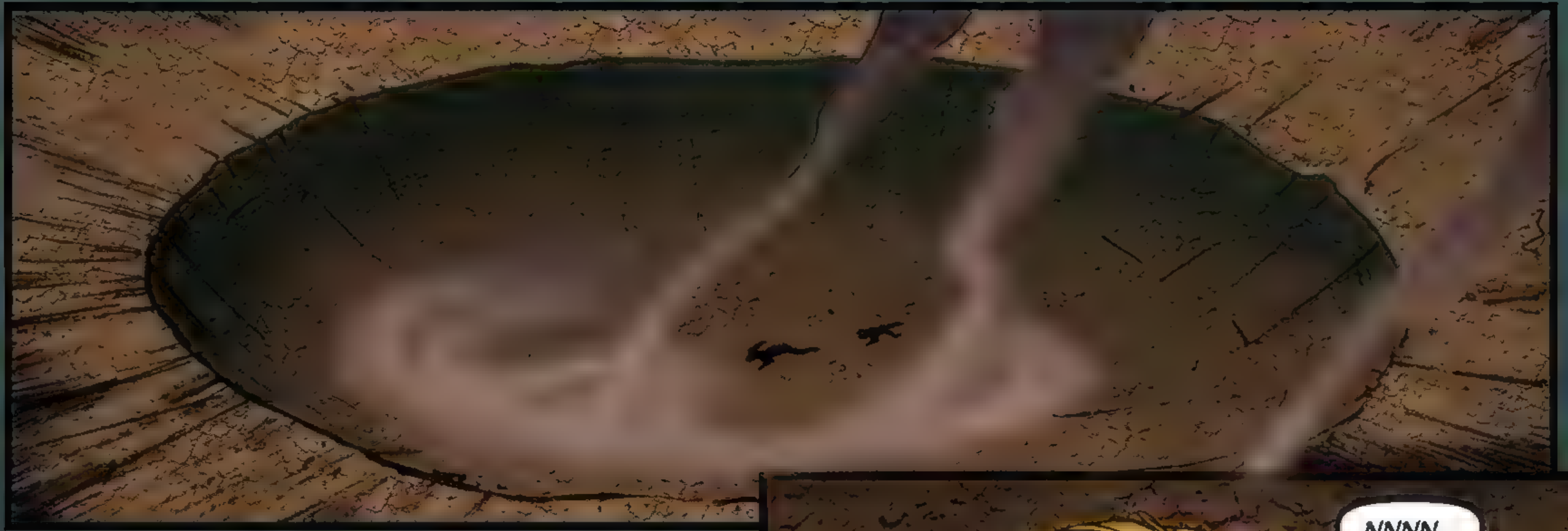


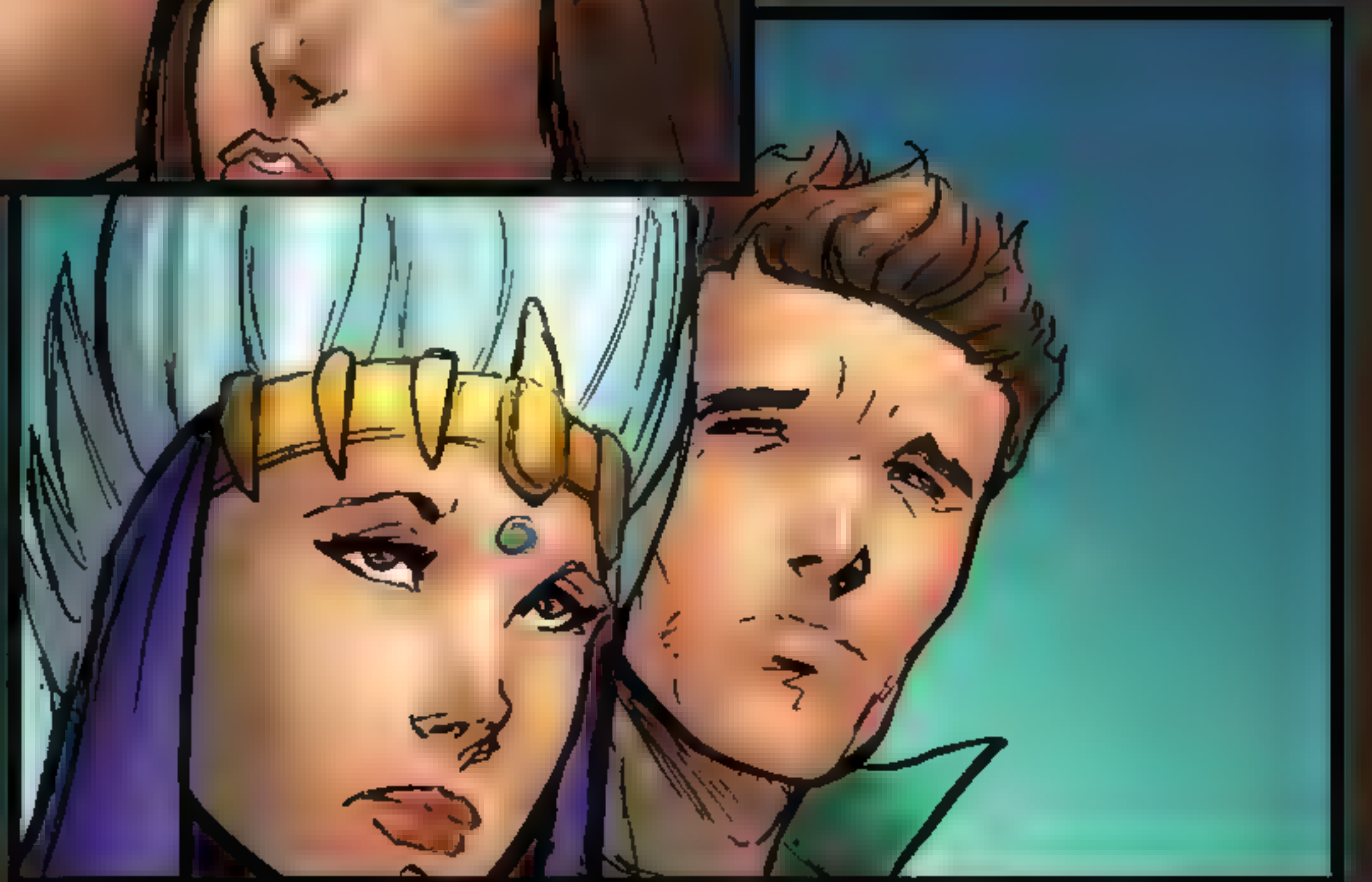
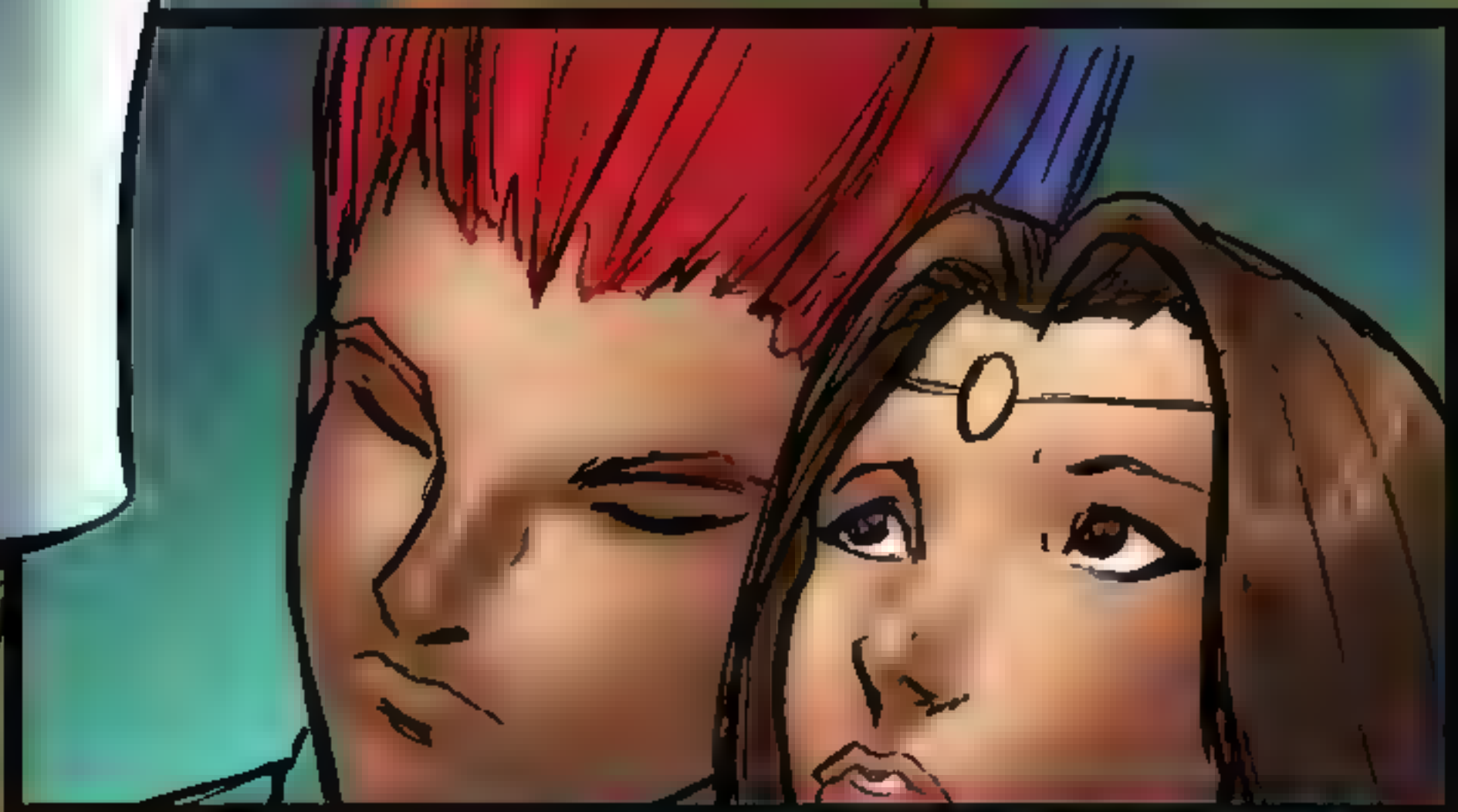
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

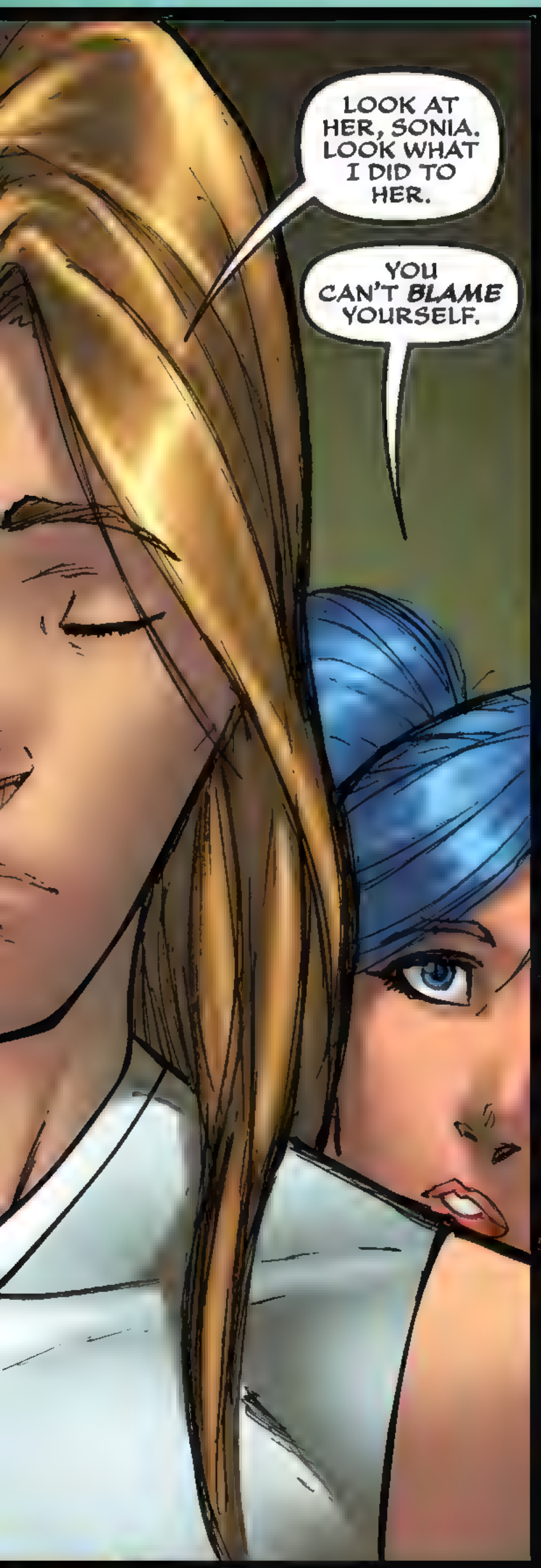
YOU WERE RIGHT, ORIS.

I AM A SPARK.



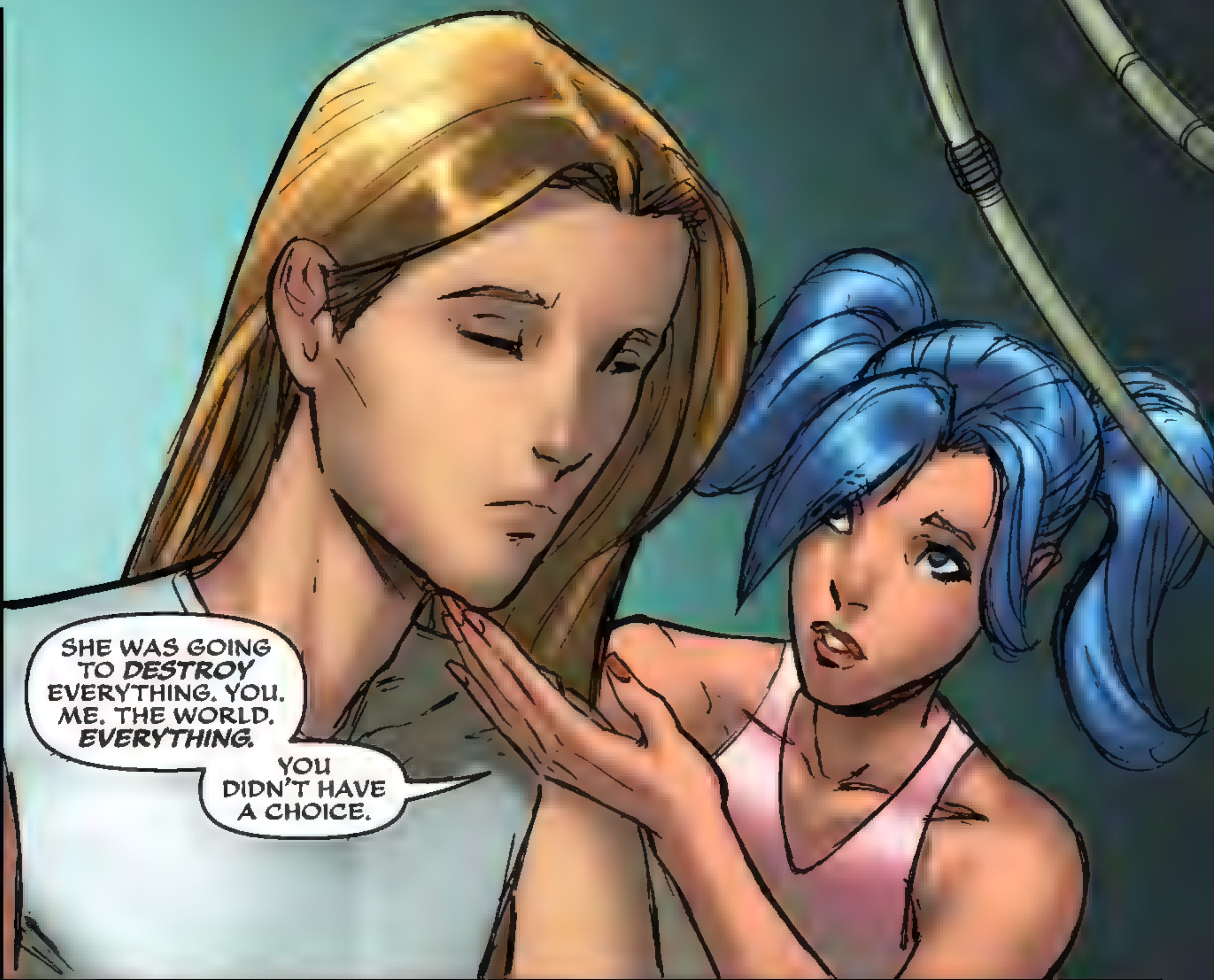






LOOK AT HER, SONIA.
LOOK WHAT
I DID TO
HER.

YOU
CAN'T **BLAME**
YOURSELF.



SHE WAS GOING
TO **DESTROY**
EVERYTHING. YOU.
ME. THE WORLD.
EVERYTHING.

YOU
DIDN'T HAVE
A CHOICE.



IS THERE
ANYTHING MORE
WE CAN DO FOR
HER?

WE'RE
ALREADY
DOING IT.

MY UNCLE
REGGIE FELL INTO
A COMA ONCE. WAS
LOST FOR MONTHS. HE
CAME OUT **ALIVE**, BUT
WAS NEVER THE
SAME AGAIN.

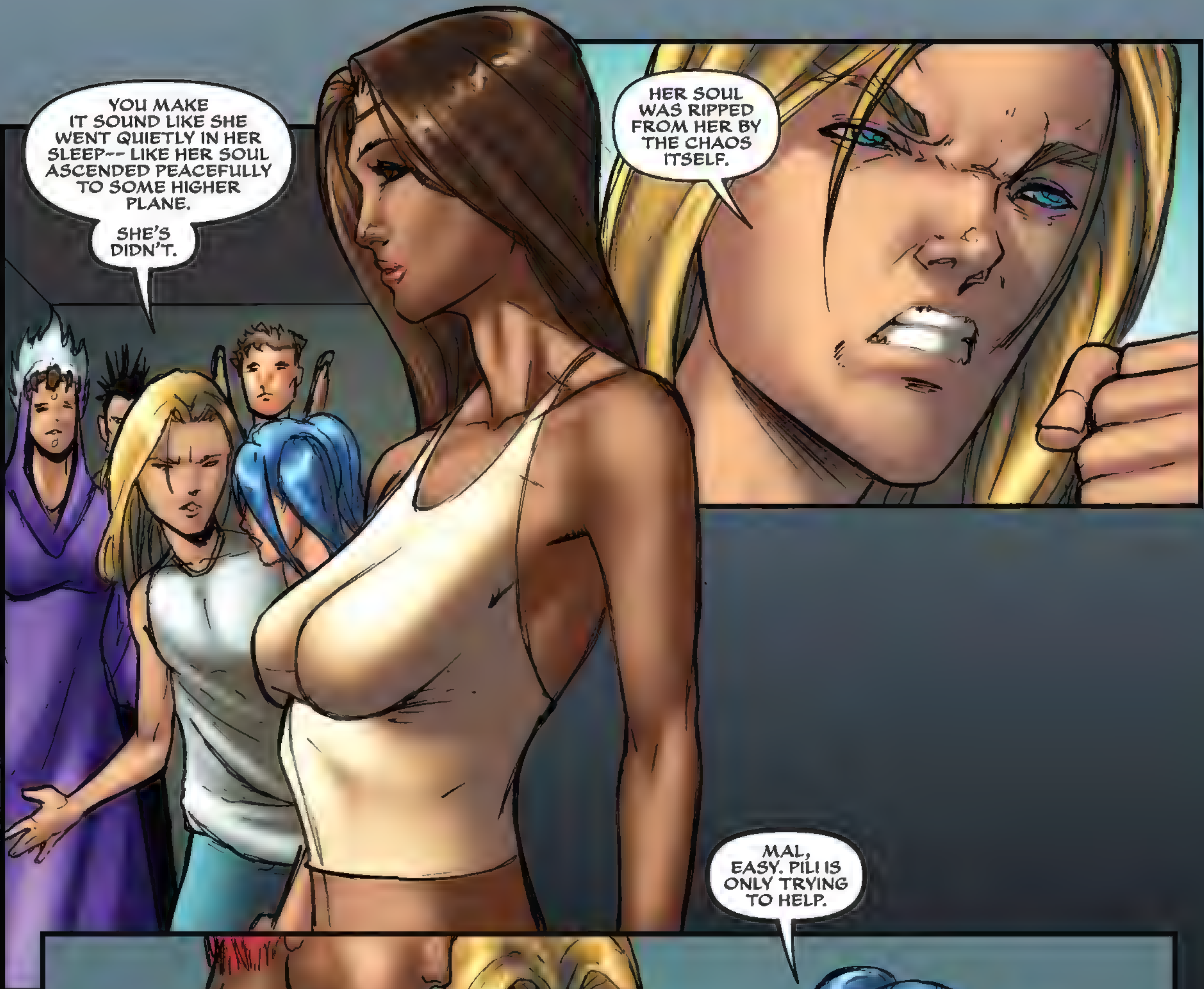


I AM
AFRAID IT IS
WORSE THAN
THAT, P.J.

BENOIST'S
MACHINE CAN
KEEP THE **HEART**
PUMPING AND THE
LUNGS BREATHING.
ELECTRODES CAN
KEEP THE **BRAIN**
STIMULATED.

BUT NONE
OF THAT CAN
CHANGE THE FACT
THAT HER **SOUL**
HAS MOVED
ON.

SHE IS
GONE.

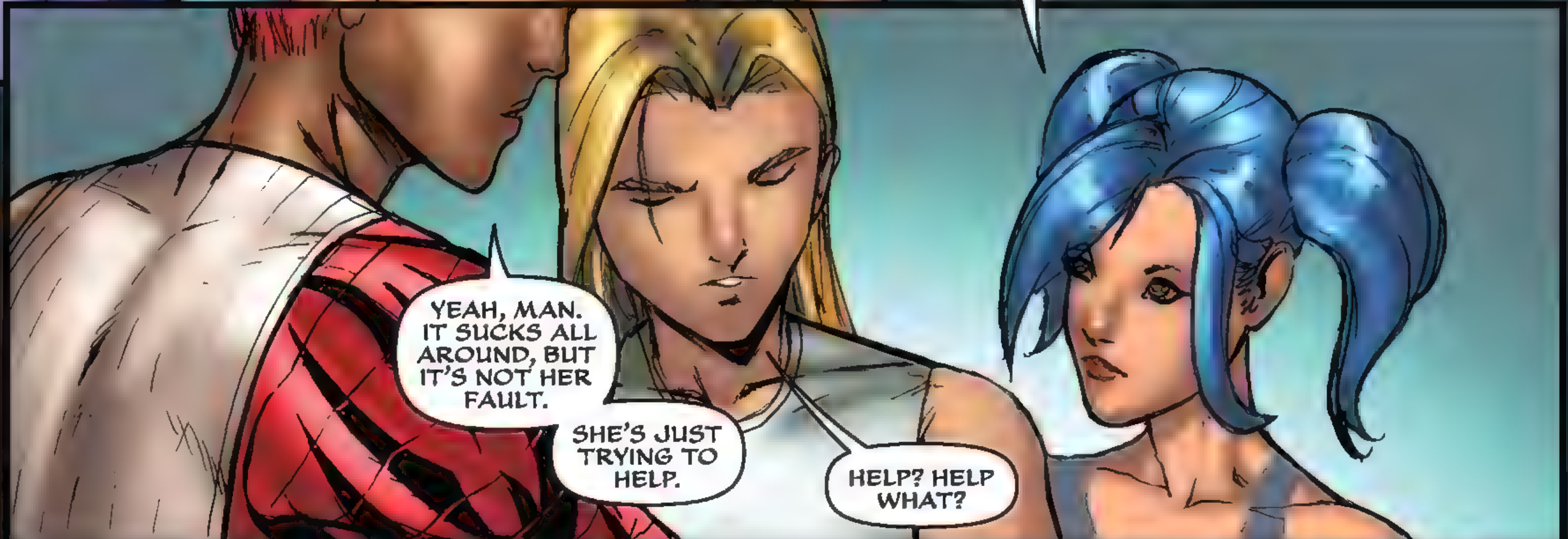


YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE SHE WENT QUIETLY IN HER SLEEP-- LIKE HER SOUL ASCENDED PEACEFULLY TO SOME HIGHER PLANE.

SHE'S DIDN'T.

HER SOUL WAS RIPPED FROM HER BY THE CHAOS ITSELF.

MAL, EASY. PILI IS ONLY TRYING TO HELP.



YEAH, MAN. IT SUCKS ALL AROUND, BUT IT'S NOT HER FAULT.

SHE'S JUST TRYING TO HELP.

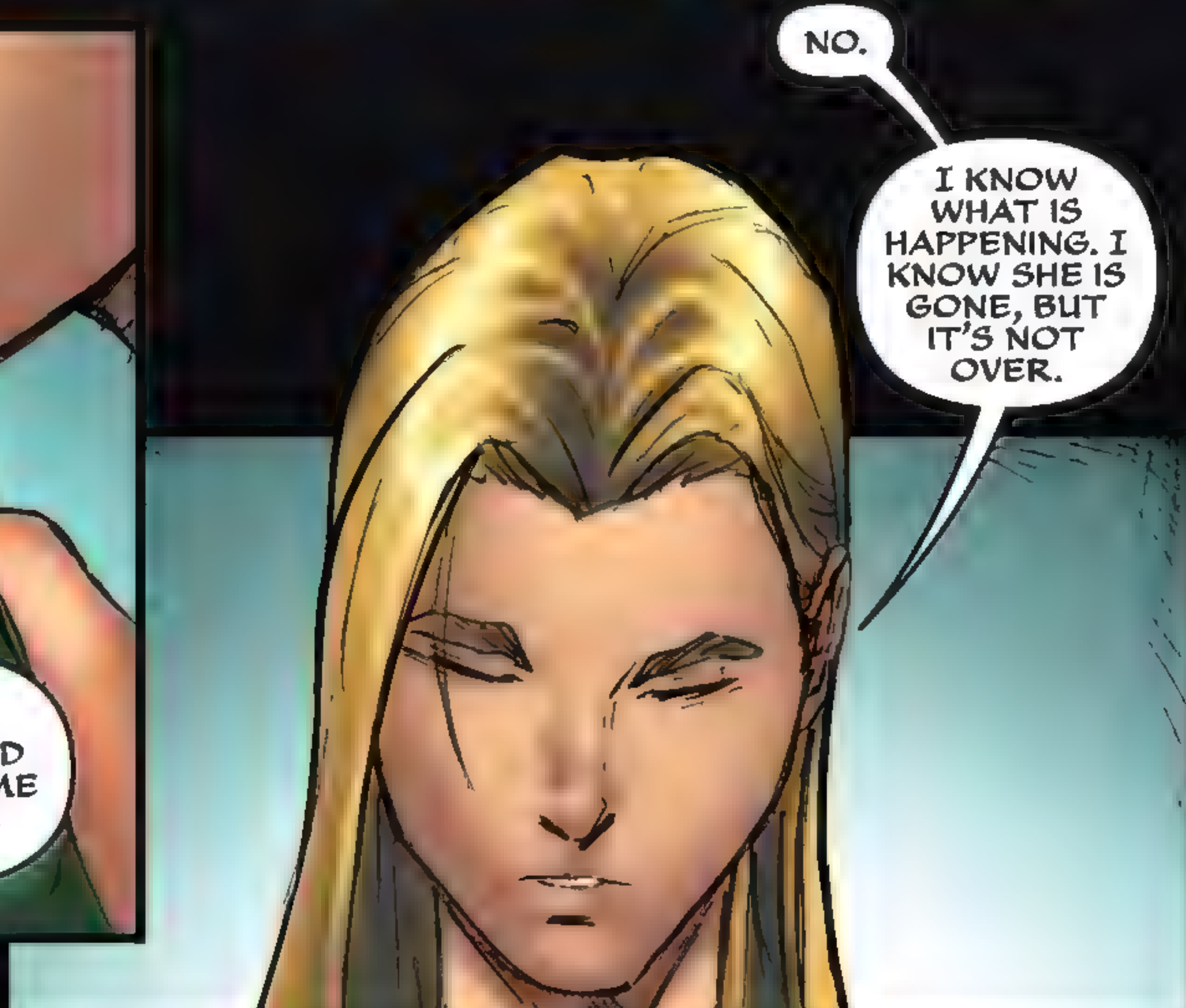
HELP? HELP WHAT?



HELP US SAY GOODBYE, MALIKAI.

ORIS HAS BEEN USING HER BODY AS A HOST ALL ALONG. SHE'S BEEN GONE FOR A LONG TIME.

YOU ALREADY DID THE HARD PART, KID. TIME TO LET GO, NOW.



NO.

I KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING. I KNOW SHE IS GONE, BUT IT'S NOT OVER.



HER
SOUL ISN'T
LOST. IT'S TRAPPED
IN THE CHAOS
REALM.

AND I'M
GOING TO GET
IT BACK.



VOL. 4

#7

OF 8
COVER A

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE





VOL. 4

#7

OF 8
COVER B

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE



VOLUME FOUR

THE NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS

plot—
J.T. KRUL & FRANK MASTROMAURO

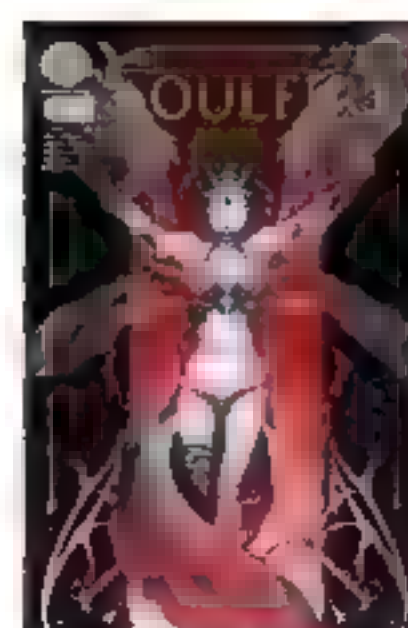
story—
J.T. KRUL

pencils—
MIKE DeBALFO (PGS 1-10)
GIUSEPPE CAFARO (PGS 11-20)

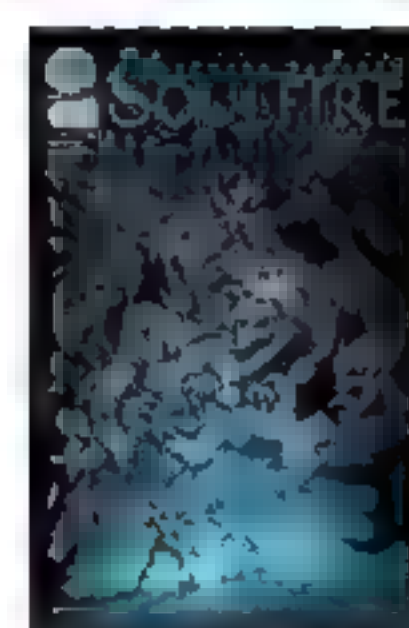
colors—
NEI RUFFINO
DAVID CUIEL (PGS 1-4)

letters—
JOSH REED

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Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD
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BETH SOTELD



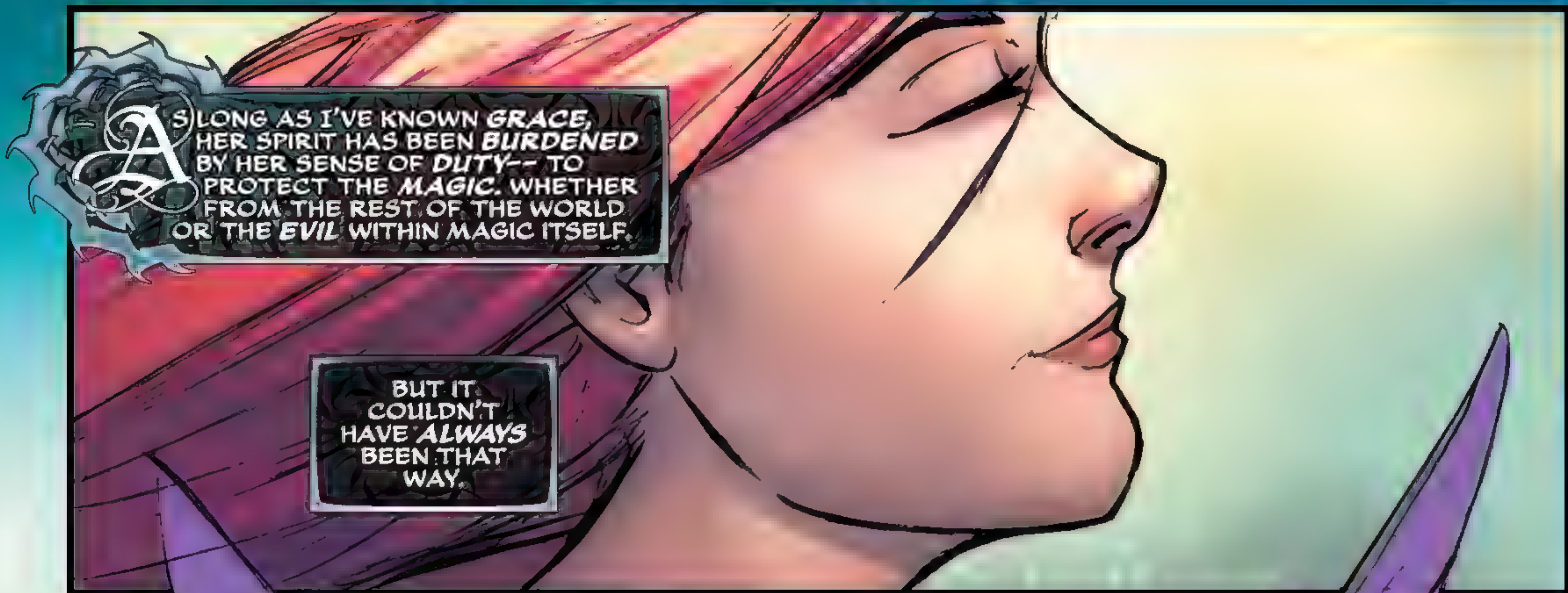
B: Direct Edition:
PASQUALE QUALANO &
NEI RUFFINO

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THE STORY SO FAR...

Malikai, using his immense power as the Bearer of the Light to become a conduit for the Masters' combined powers, was able to extinguish the chaos vessel known as Oris. However, in the process, Malikai discovered that Grace's soul was ripped from her body, and the only way to retrieve it is to enter the Chaos Realm...

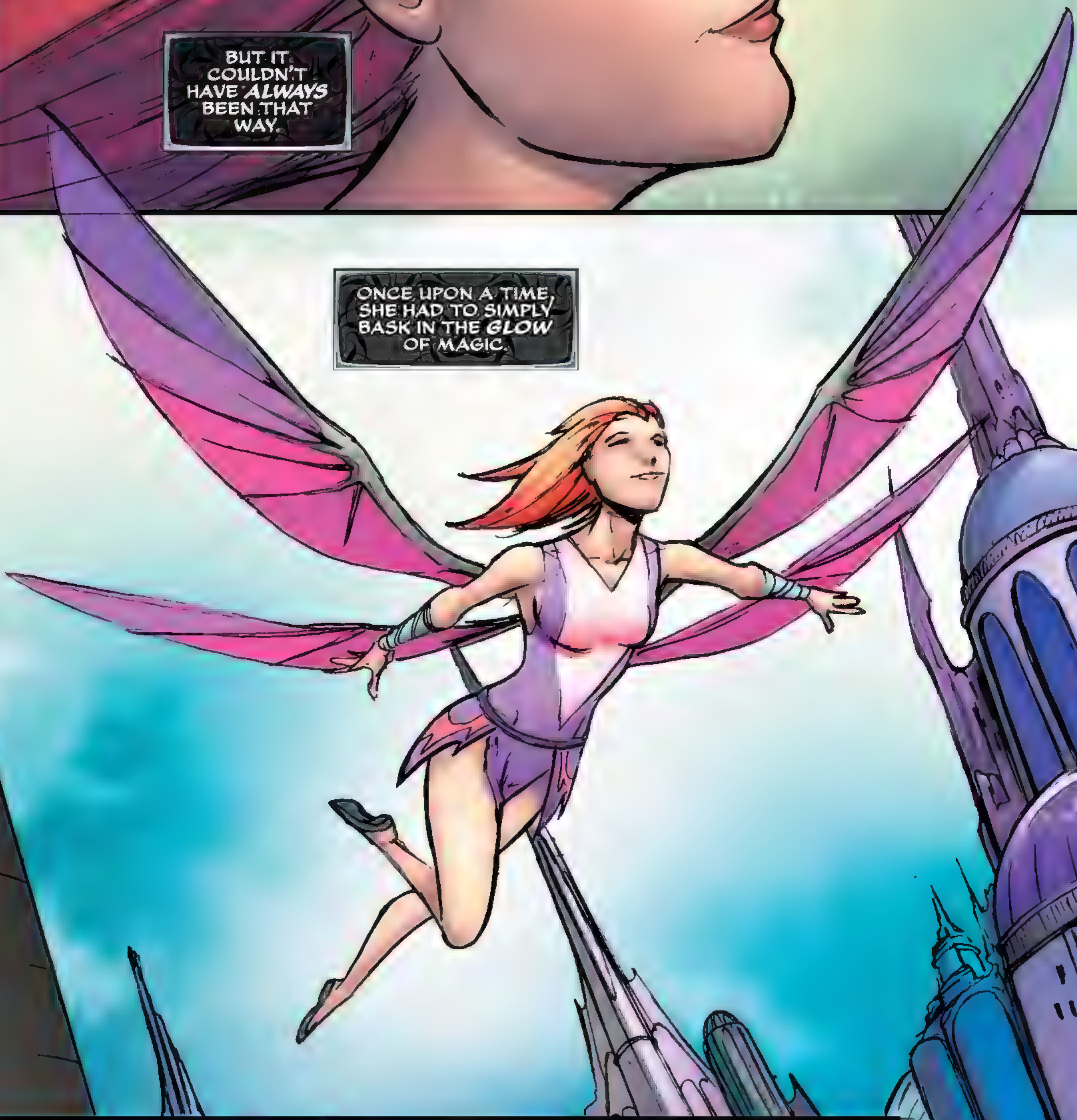


A

SLONG AS I'VE KNOWN GRACE,
HER SPIRIT HAS BEEN BURDENED
BY HER SENSE OF DUTY-- TO
PROTECT THE MAGIC. WHETHER
FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD
OR THE EVIL WITHIN MAGIC ITSELF.

BUT IT
COULDN'T
HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN THAT
WAY.

ONCE UPON A TIME,
SHE HAD TO SIMPLY
BASK IN THE GLOW
OF MAGIC.



SHE HAD TO KNOW
HAPPINESS.

IF NOT?

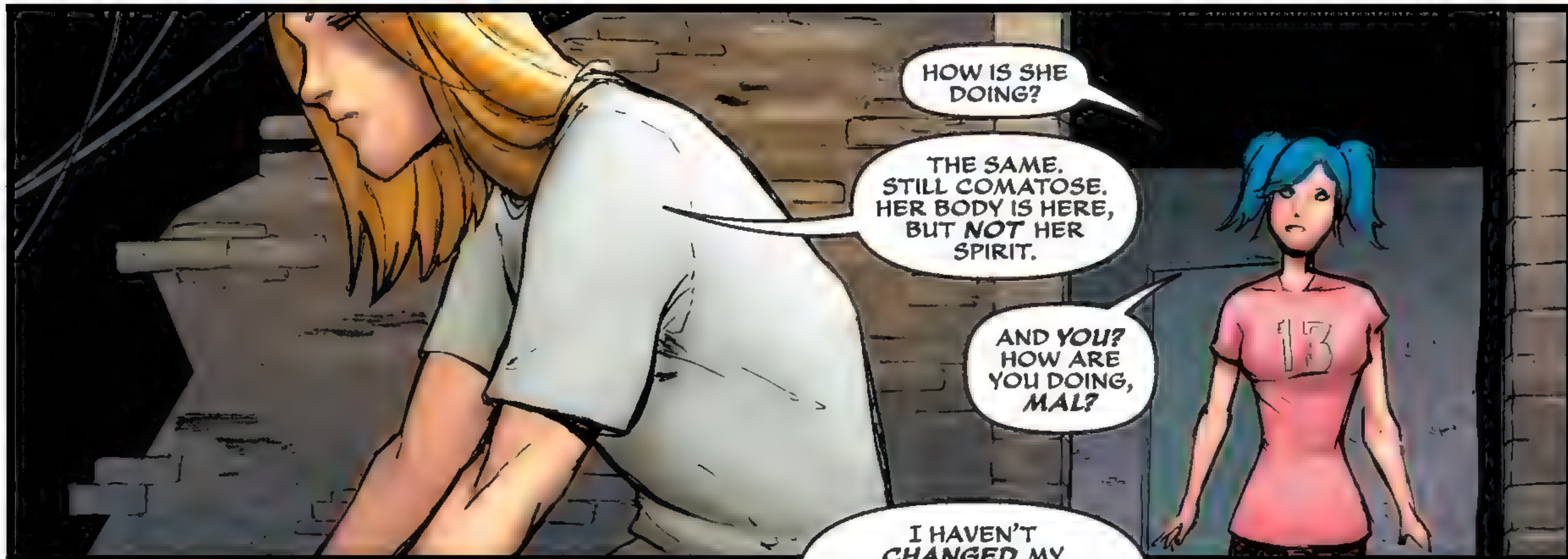
IF ALL HER
LIFE WAS PAIN
AND LOSS, AND
MISERY--





--THEN WHY WOULD
SHE SACRIFICE SO
MUCH FOR IT?





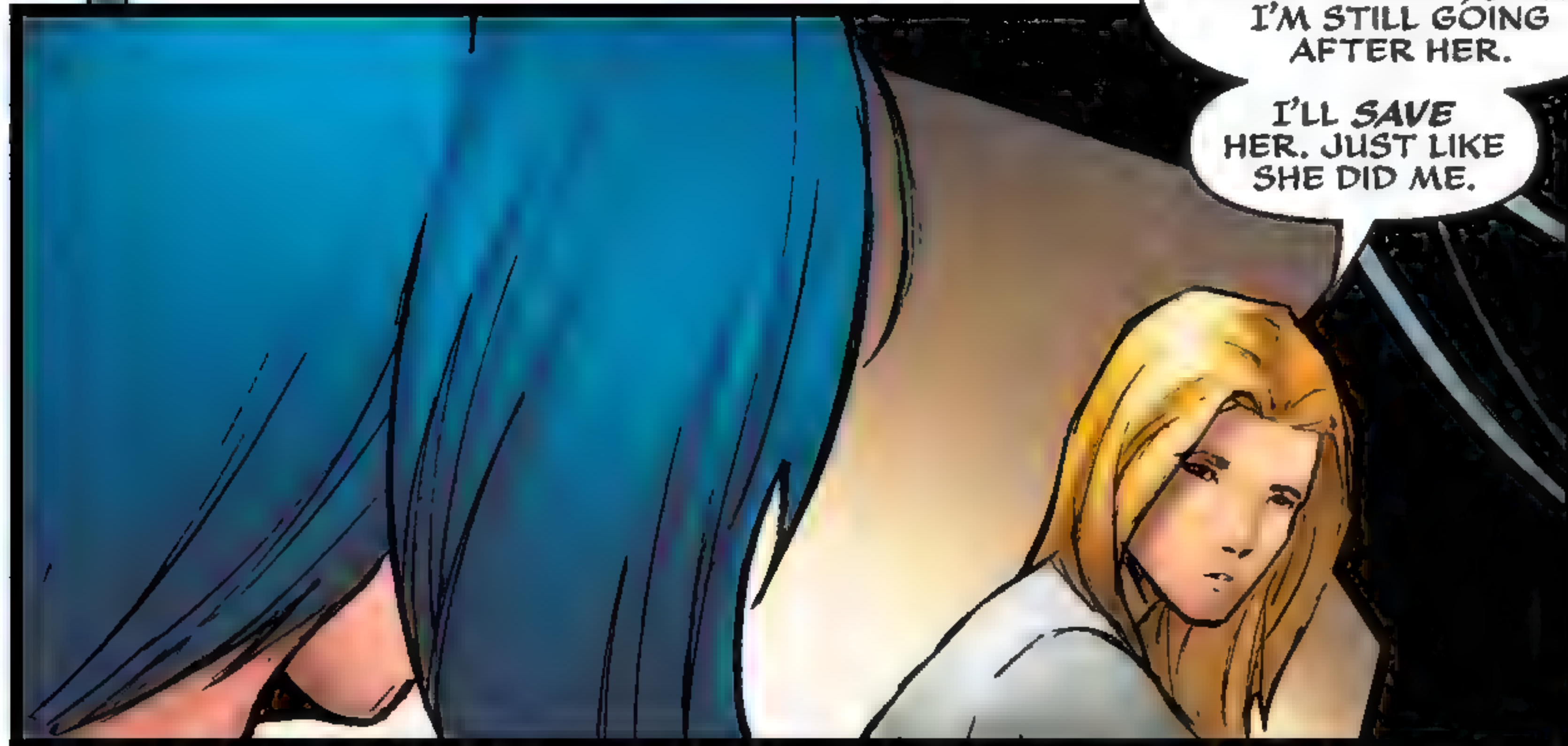
HOW IS SHE DOING?

THE SAME. STILL COMATOSE. HER BODY IS HERE, BUT NOT HER SPIRIT.

AND YOU? HOW ARE YOU DOING, MAL?

I HAVEN'T **CHANGED** MY MIND, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ASKING, SONIA. I'M STILL GOING AFTER HER.

I'LL **SAVE** HER. JUST LIKE SHE DID ME.

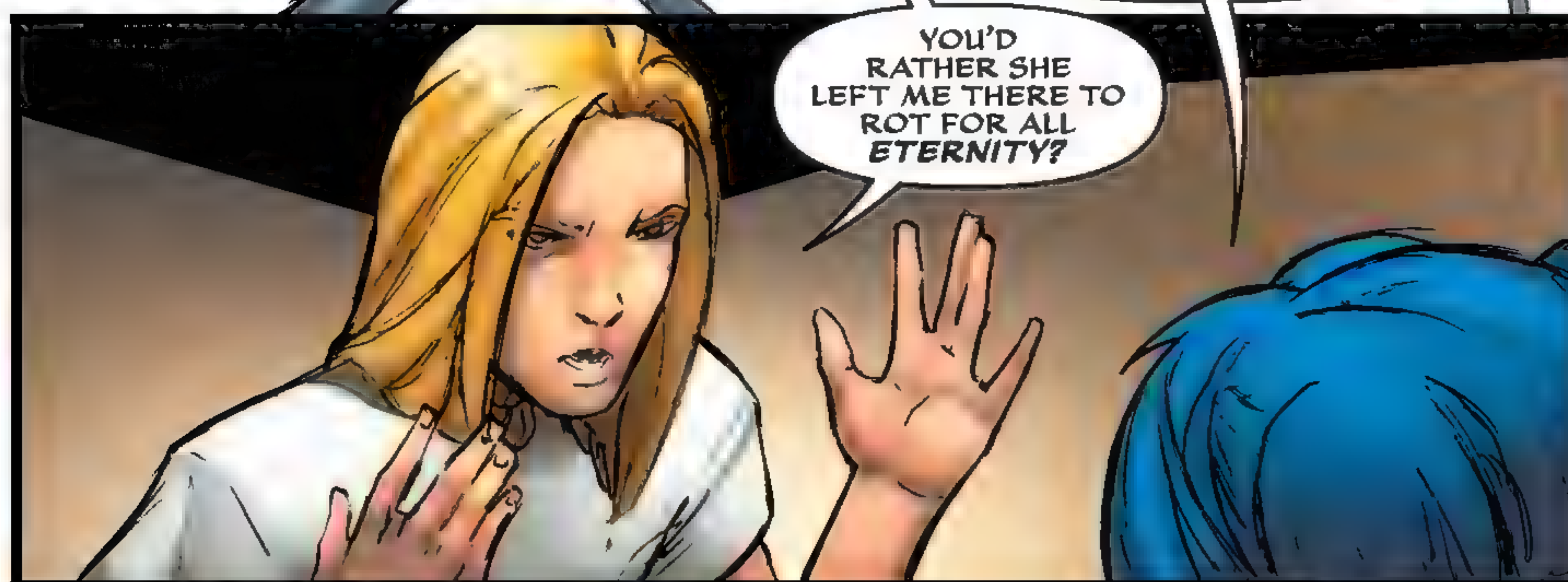


BUT AT WHAT **COST**?

SURE, **GRACE** RESCUED YOUR SPIRIT FROM SOME WALL OF **DOOM**, BUT LOOK WHAT HAPPENED. SHE TURNED INTO A **MONSTER**. SHE TRIED TO **DESTROY** THE WORLD.

IT **WASN'T** HER. IT WAS THE **CHAOS**. YOU KNOW THAT.

IT DOESN'T MATTER. HER ACTIONS ALMOST **KILLED** EVERYONE.



YOU'D RATHER SHE LEFT ME THERE TO ROT FOR ALL **ETERNITY**?

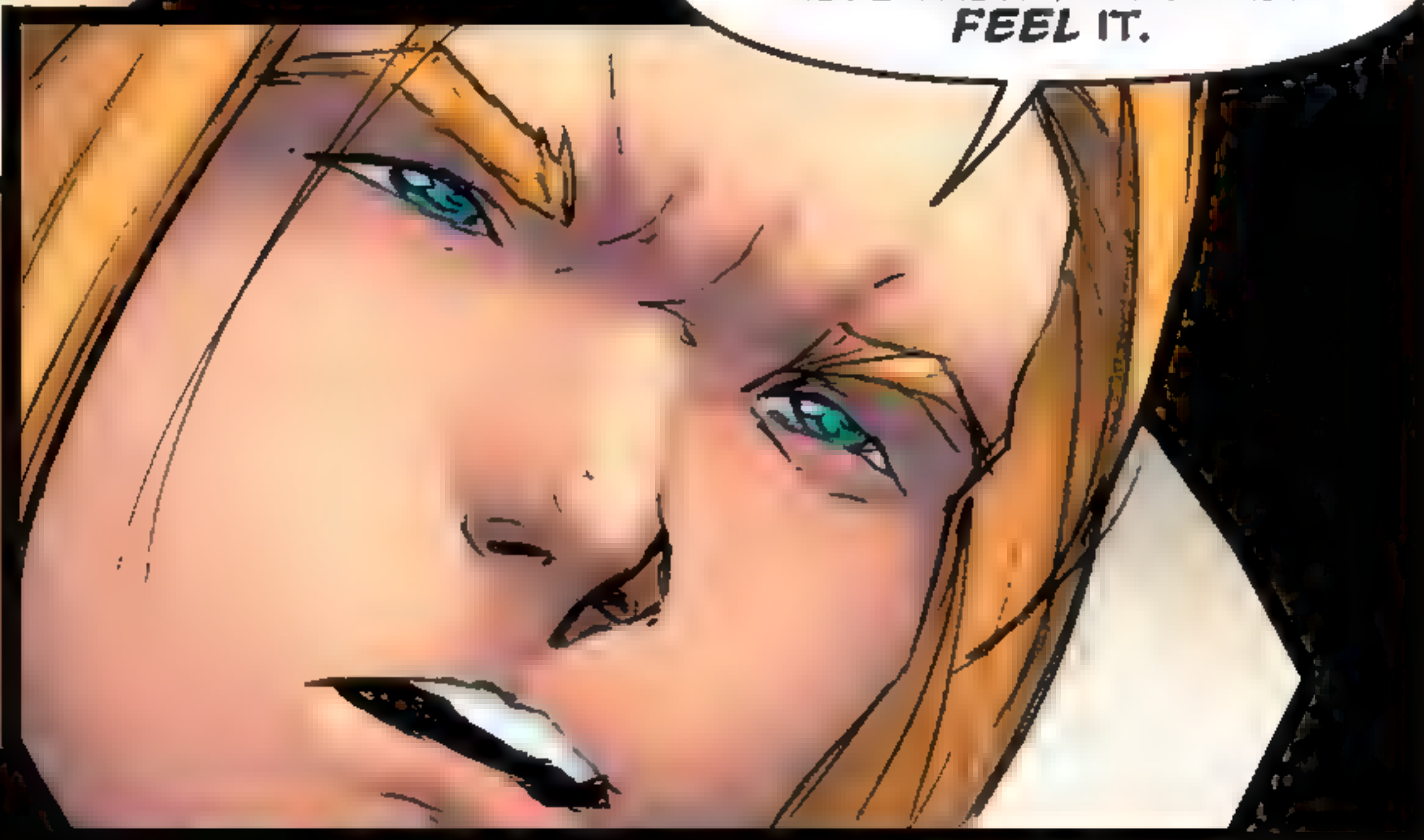


YOU'D PREFER I WAS **DEAD**?



HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? I LOVE YOU. I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU. BUT, IT'S NOT NATURAL.

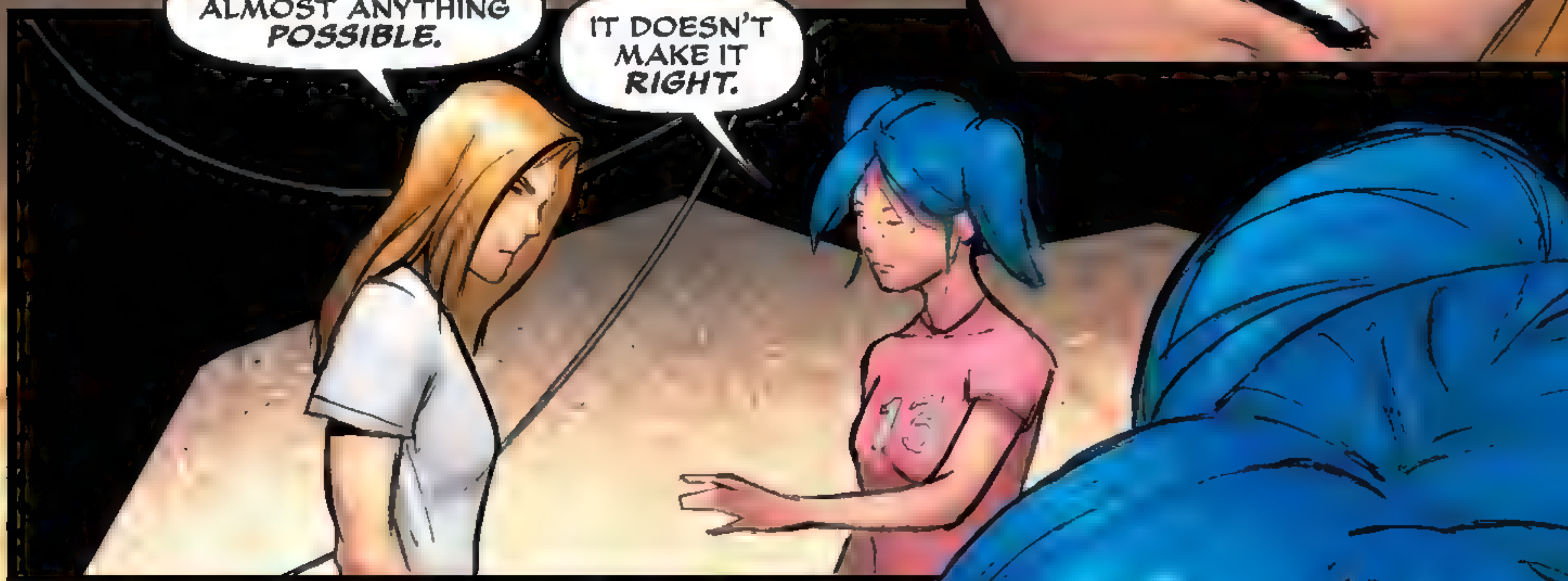
AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH-- YOU KNOW HOW **POWERFUL** THE MAGIC IS. IT'S ALL AROUND US. I WISH YOU COULD **FEEL** IT.



I DON'T WANT TO FEEL IT.

IT MAKES ALMOST ANYTHING POSSIBLE.

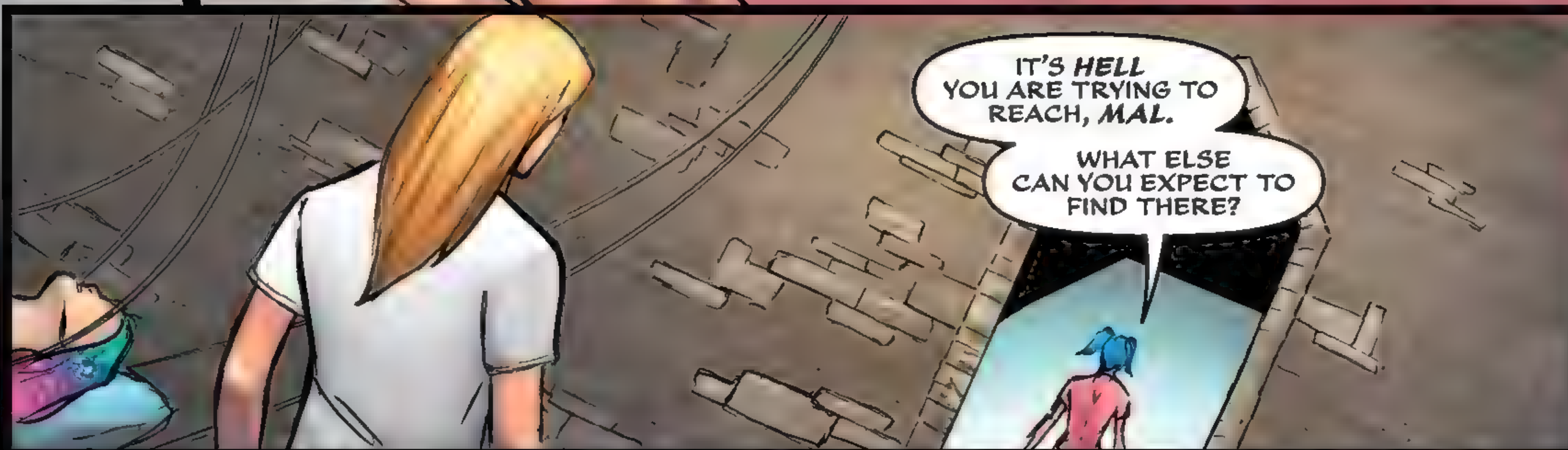
IT DOESN'T MAKE IT RIGHT.



IT'S LIKE YOU ARE MESSING WITH **GOD**.

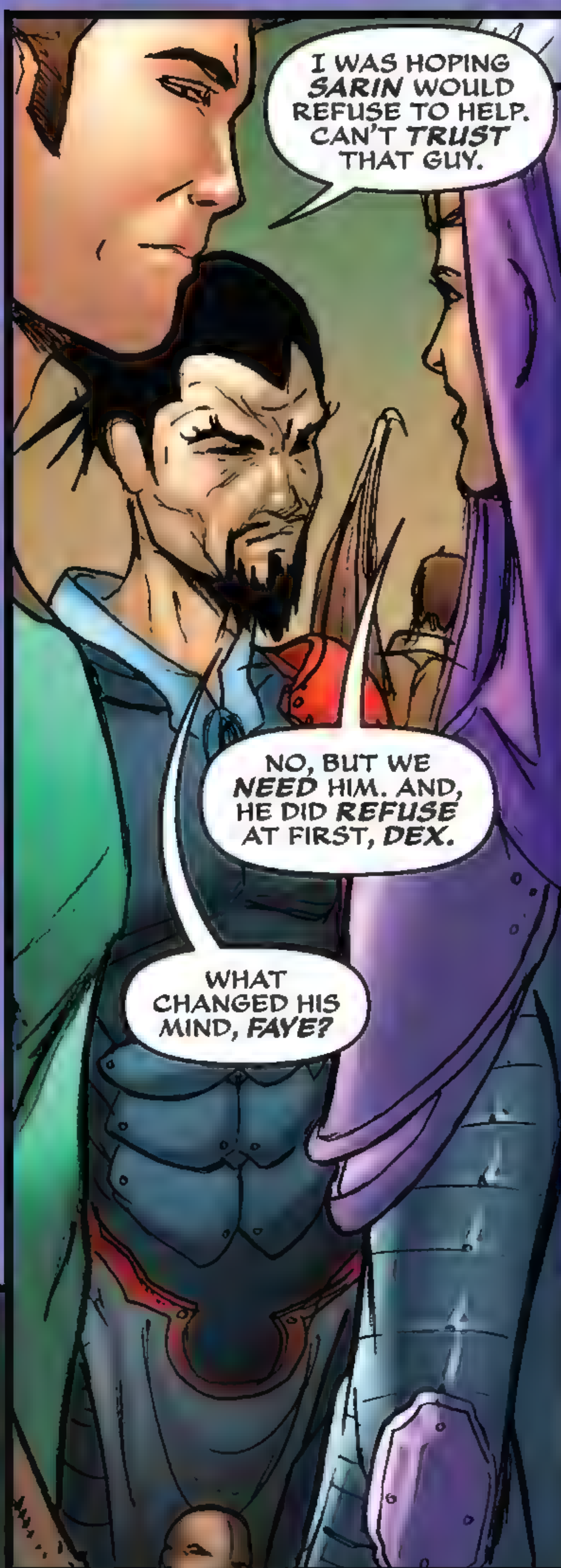
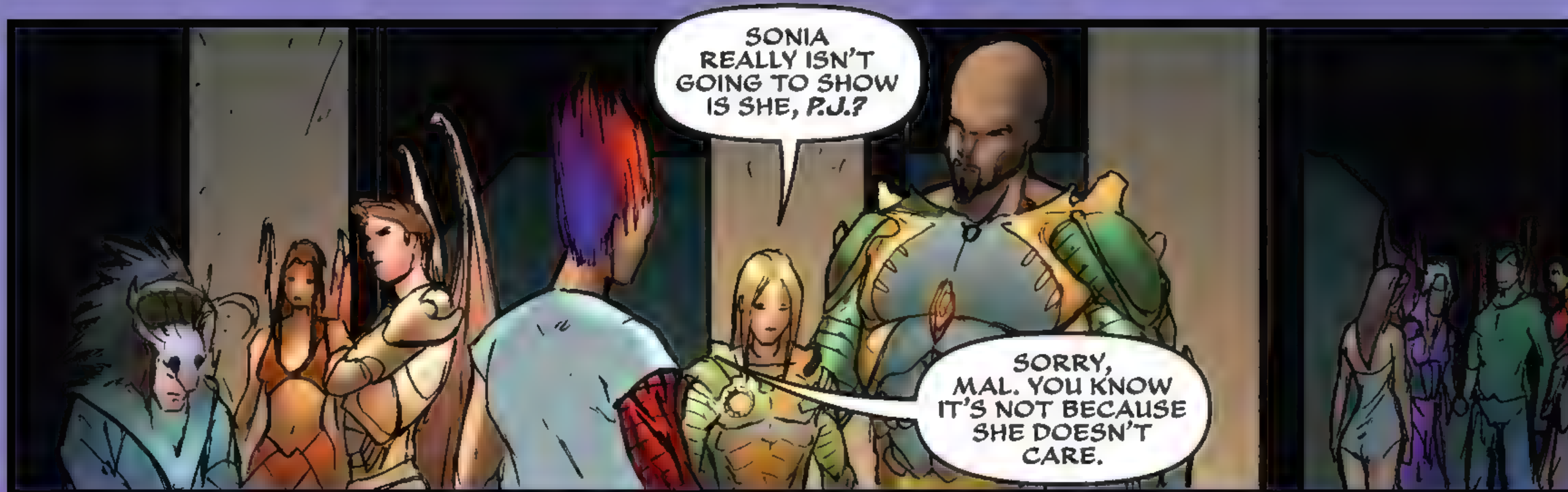
PART OF ME IS AFRAID THAT YOU'LL **DIE** TRYING TO BRING HER BACK.

BUT A BIGGER PART OF ME IS SCARED YOU'LL **SUCCEED**, THAT YOU'LL SAVE HER-- AND BRING BACK SOMETHING EVEN **WORSE**.



IT'S **HELL** YOU ARE TRYING TO REACH, **MAL**.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU EXPECT TO FIND THERE?





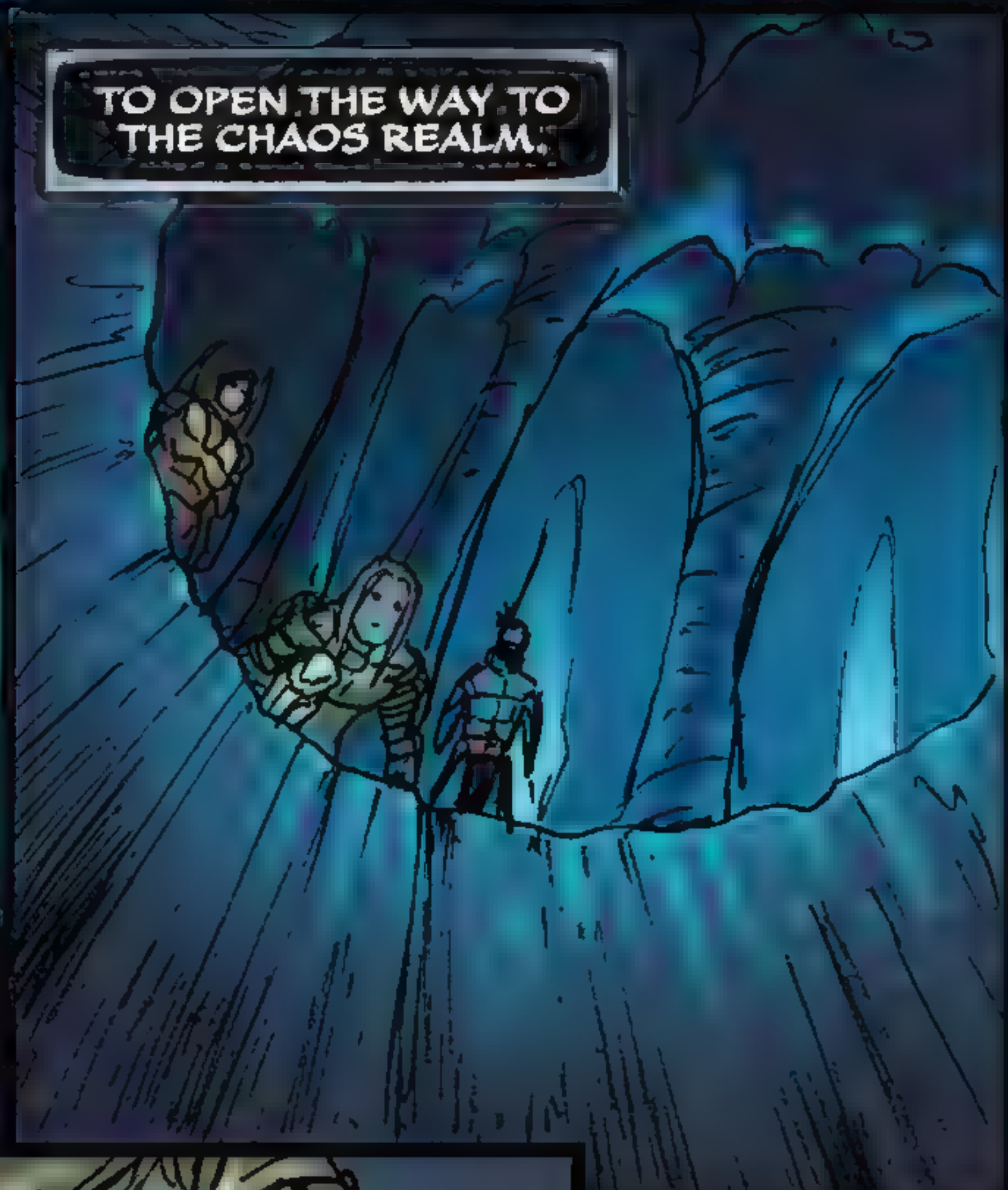
THEY'VE
BEEN HERE
BEFORE--

--WHEN THEY
RESCUED ME.

EACH
MASTER IS
REQUIRED FOR
A SPECIFIC
TASK.



ALL MUST WORK
TOGETHER.



TO OPEN THE WAY TO
THE CHAOS REALM.



EVERY PART OF ME...
I'M SCARED.

I'D HAVE TO BE AN
IDIOT NOT TO BE.

BUT, THIS
IS THE ONLY
WAY TO SAVE
GRACE.

WHAT ARE
YOU WAITING FOR,
SARIN? AN OUNCE
OF COURAGE?

BITE
YOUR TONGUE,
REN.

I AM UPHOLDING MY
PART, FAYE. REMEMBER
YOUR PROMISE.

WHEN WE
RETURN, YOUR BELOVED
PROTECTOR HAS A CHOICE--
LEAVE OR SUFFER THE
CONSEQUENCES.

DEX WILL
NOT *SUFFER* AT
YOUR HAND, SARIN.
I GUARANTEE IT.
HE'LL LEAVE.

PILI, WHAT
CAN YOU SEE?
ARE WE GOING
TO FIND HER?

I'M AFRAID MY
CLAIRVOYANT ABILITIES
ARE USELESS HERE.

I SEE
WHAT YOU
SEE.



I'M
SORRY
TO HEAR
THAT.

VISIONS HAUNT MY
MIND, REMINDERS OF
WHEN I WAS THE ONE
TRAPPED AMONGST
THESE DEMONS.

I GUESS
THEY REMEMBER ME,
TOO-- THE ONE THAT
GOT AWAY.



FAYE!



SARIN!
HELP US FREE
FAYE!

NOT PART
OF MY PLAN,
REN.

SHE IS YOUR
QUEEN.

I CAN
ALWAYS FIND
ANOTHER.



HOW
NOBLE OF
HIM.



SHE SHOULD BE HERE.

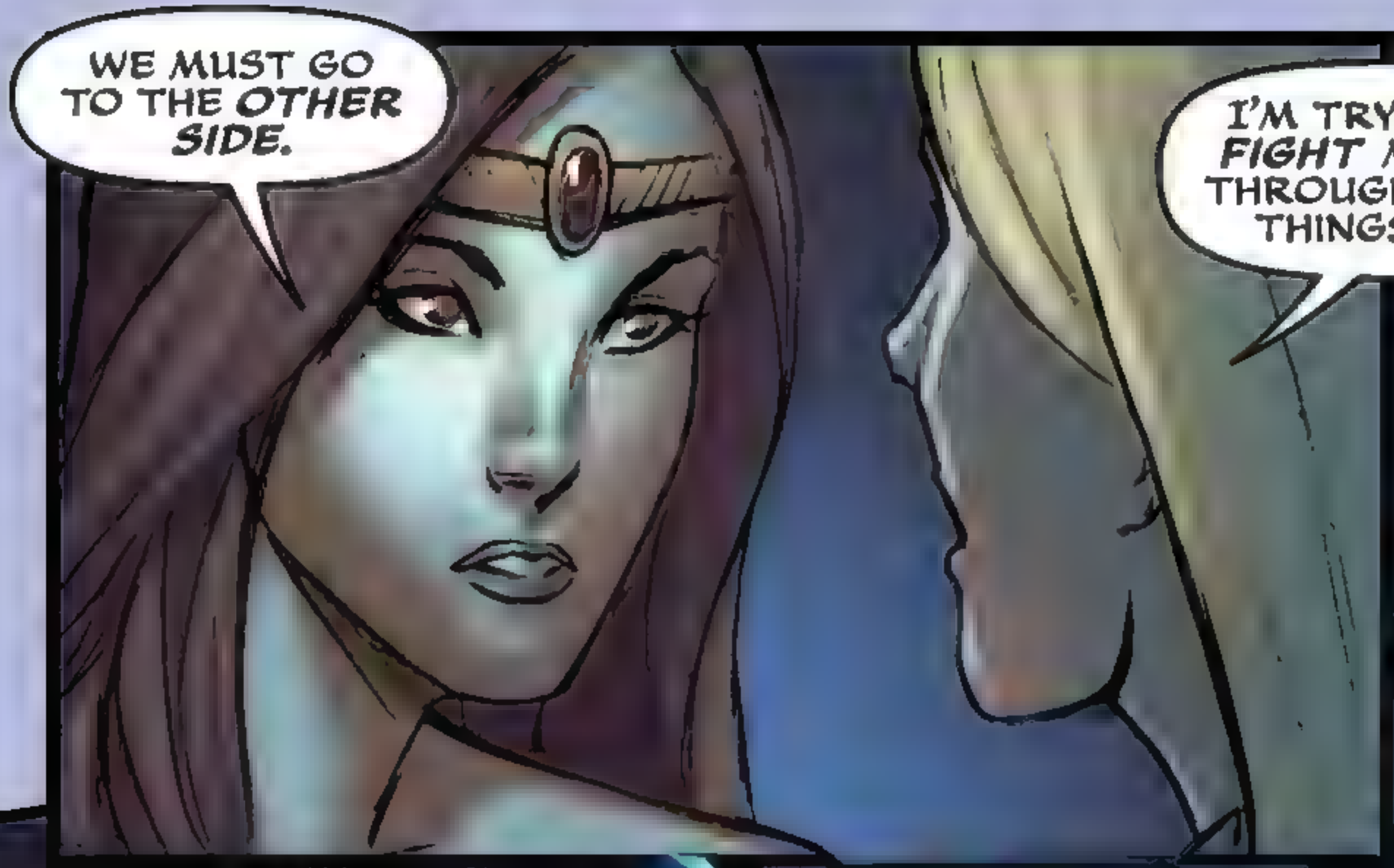
GRACE SHOULD BE LOCKED IN THE WALL, JUST LIKE I WAS.

BUT, I DON'T SEE HER.

THIS IS NOT THE CHAOS REALM, MALIKAI.

THEN WHAT THE HELL DO YOU CALL THIS INSANE WALL IN FRONT OF US?

THE PASSAGEWAY.



WE MUST GO TO THE OTHER SIDE.

I'M TRYING TO FIGHT MY WAY THROUGH THESE THINGS, PILI.



NO, WE MUSTN'T RESIST. WE HAVE TO LET THE CHAOS TAKE US.

ARE YOU CRAZY?!?

IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE GRACE.



YOU'D BETTER BE RIGHT.

OF COURSE, IF YOU'RE NOT, I DOUBT I'LL BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

MAL!

PILI!



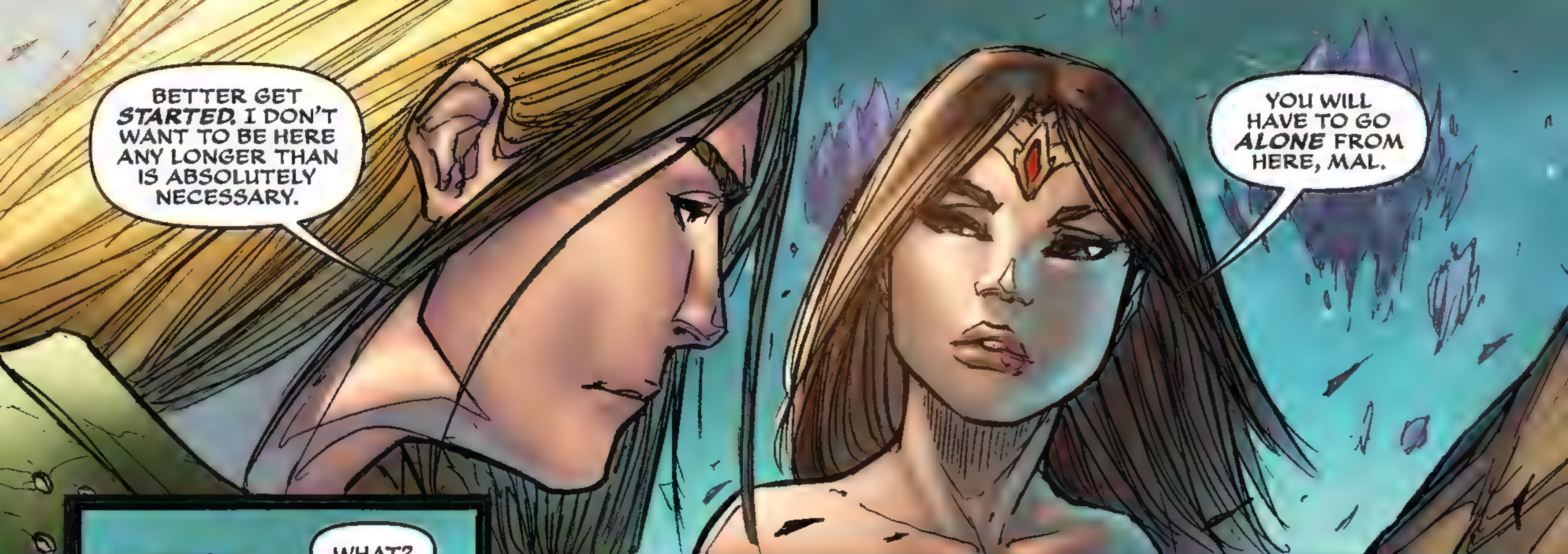
IT'S OKAY, FAYE.



WE'LL SEE YOU ON...

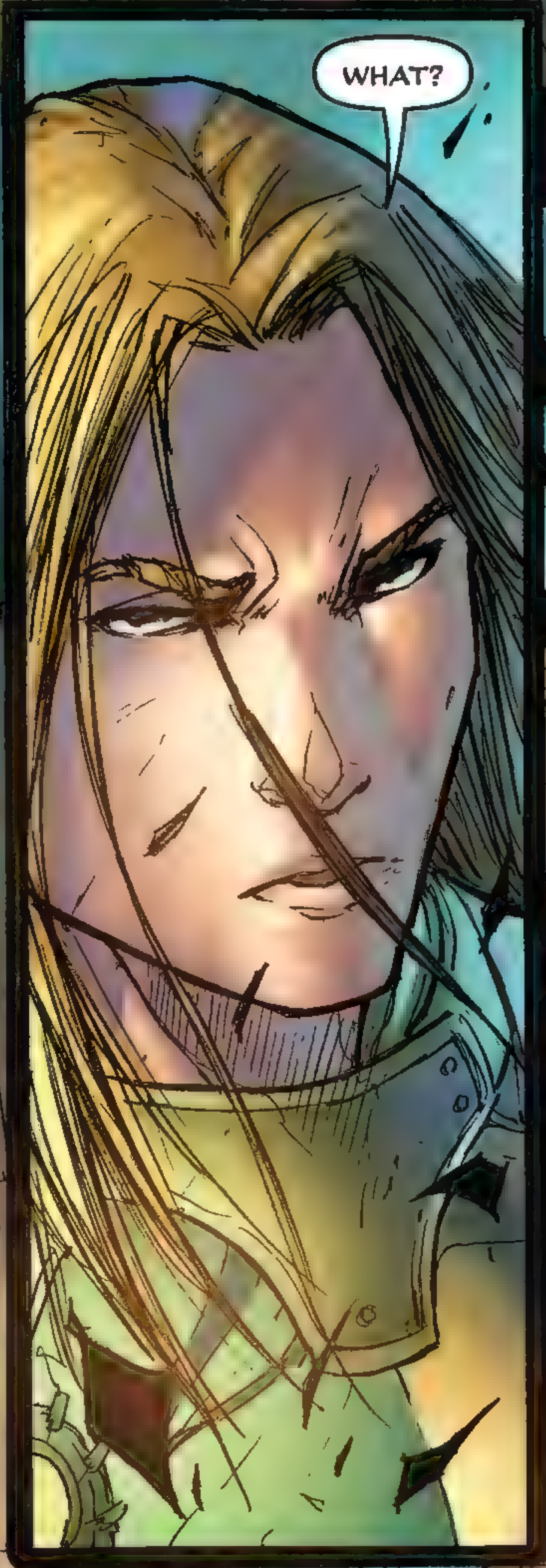


...THE
OTHER
SIDE.

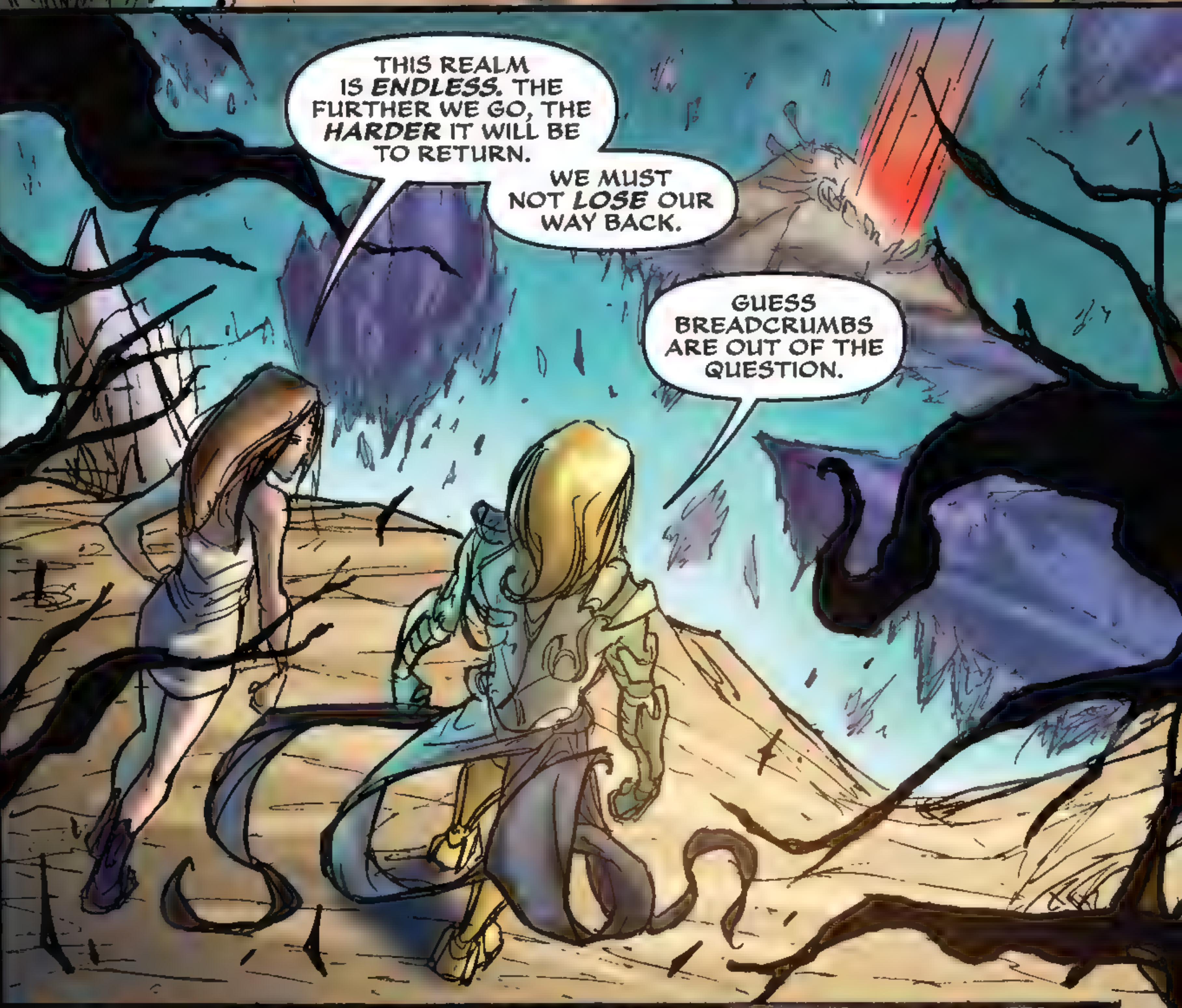


BETTER GET
STARTED. I DON'T
WANT TO BE HERE
ANY LONGER THAN
IS ABSOLUTELY
NECESSARY.

YOU WILL
HAVE TO GO
ALONE FROM
HERE, MAL.



WHAT?



THIS REALM
IS **ENDLESS**. THE
FURTHER WE GO, THE
HARDER IT WILL BE
TO RETURN.

WE MUST
NOT **LOSE** OUR
WAY BACK.

GUESS
BREADCRUMBS
ARE OUT OF THE
QUESTION.



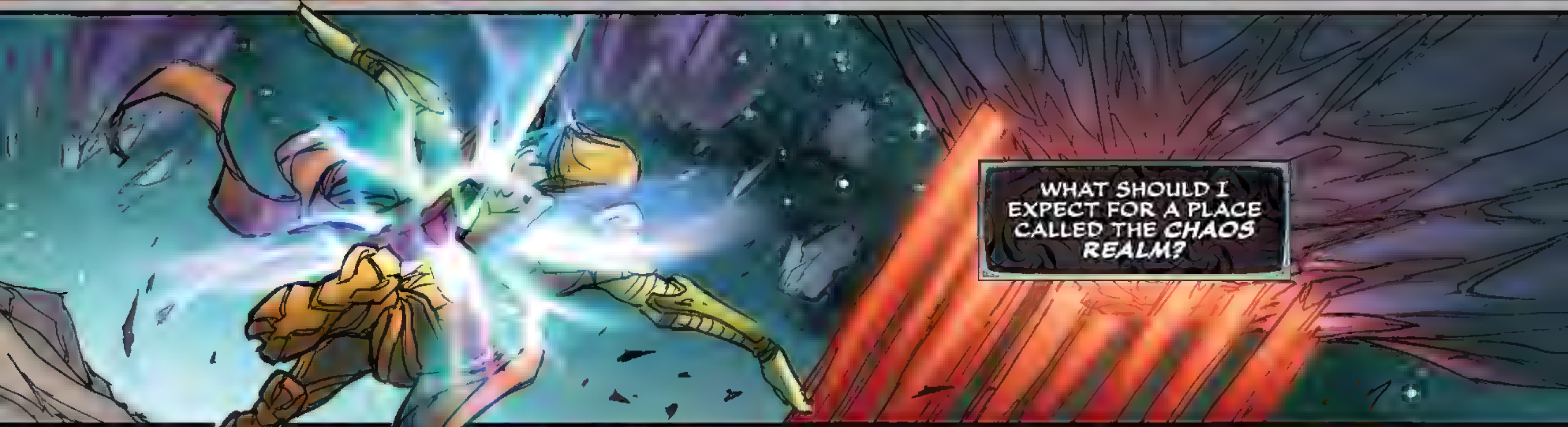
I WILL WAIT
HERE-- GUIDE YOU
BACK ONCE YOU FIND
GRACE. LIKE A
BEACON.



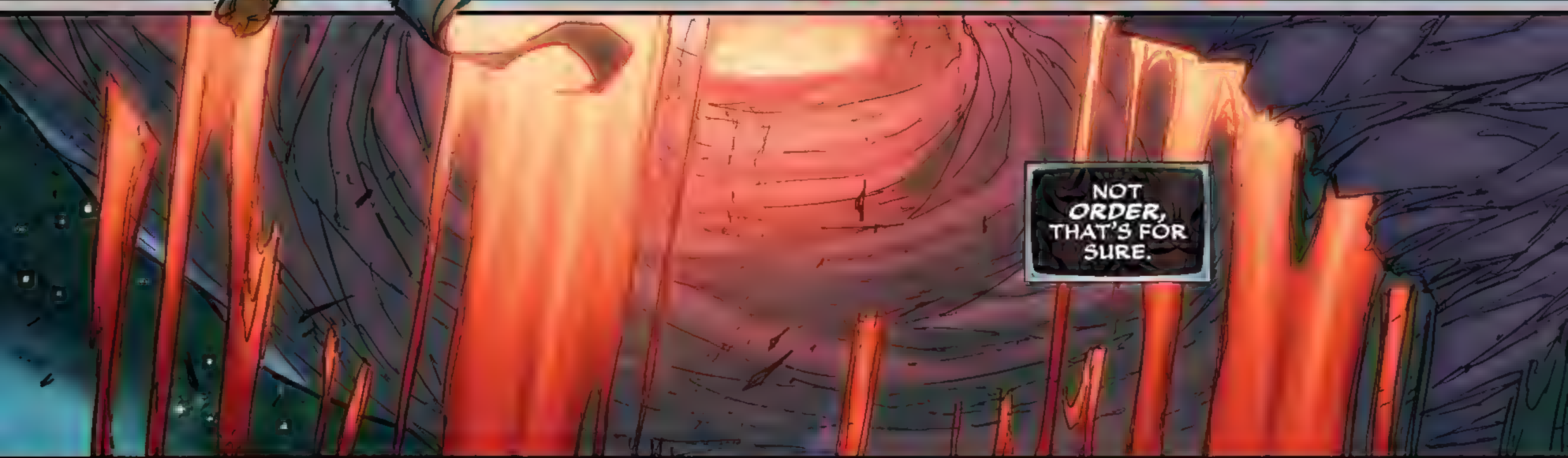
YOU'D BETTER
SHINE NICE AND BRIGHT.
OTHERWISE, WE'RE
SCREWED.



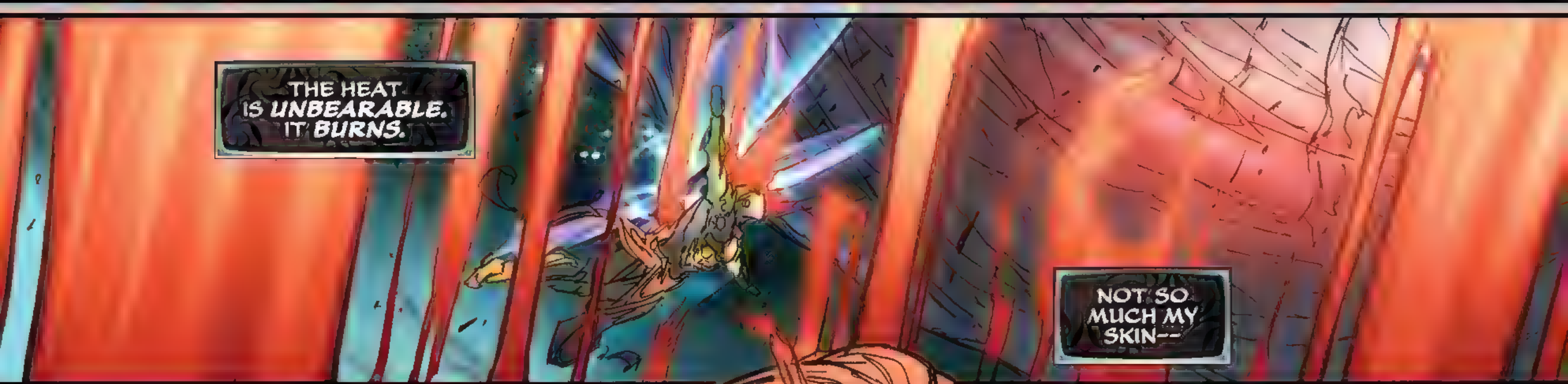
THIS PLACE
IS NUTS.



WHAT SHOULD I
EXPECT FOR A PLACE
CALLED THE CHAOS
REALM?



NOT
ORDER,
THAT'S FOR
SURE.



THE HEAT
IS UNBEARABLE.
IT BURNS.

NOT SO
MUCH MY
SKIN--



BUT MY SOUL.

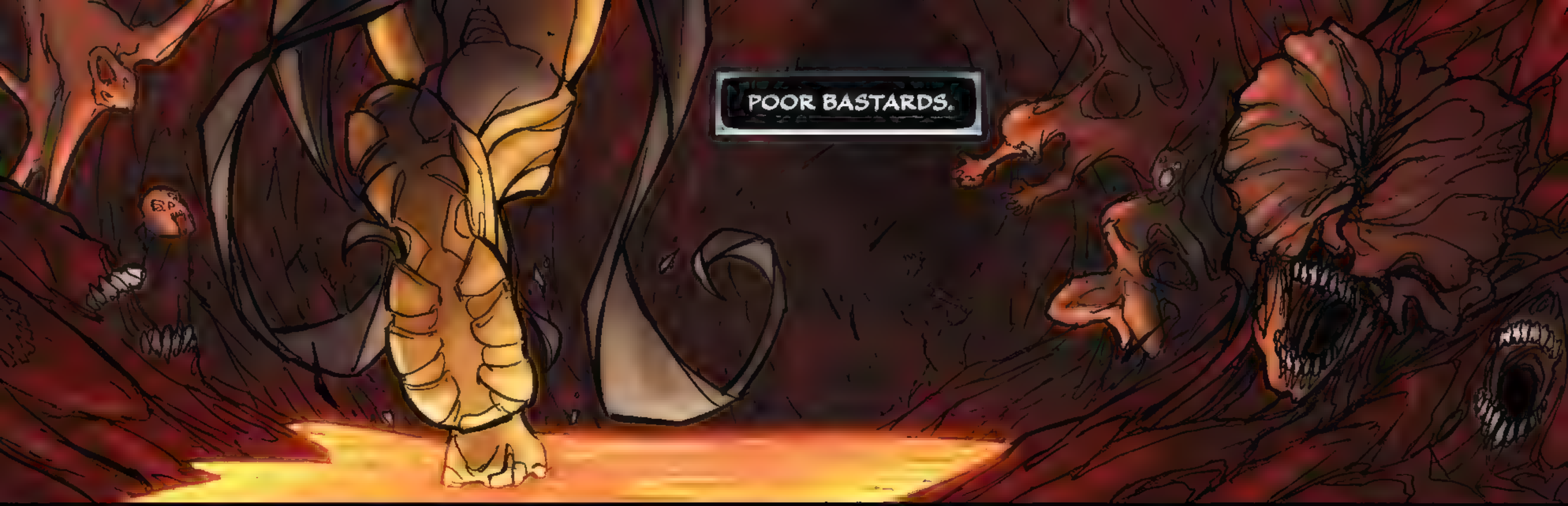
AHHHH!



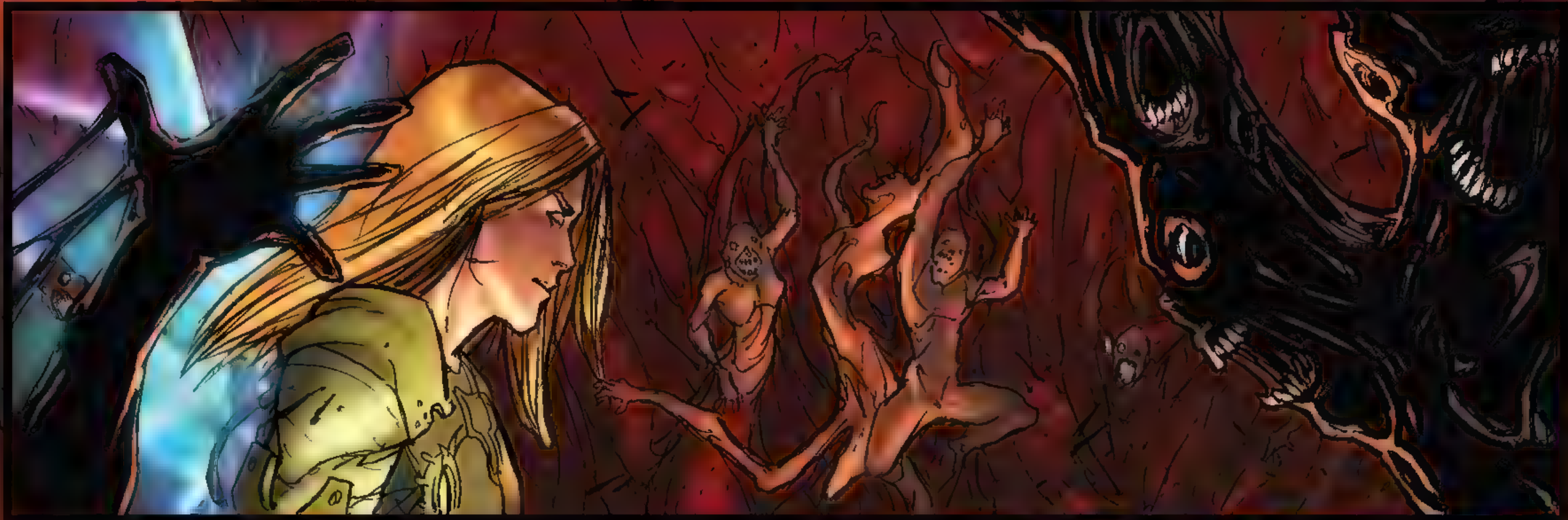
JESUS...



THEY ARE
PEOPLE-- THOSE WHO
GOT CONSUMED BY
THE CHAOS.



POOR BASTARDS.



PAULA...

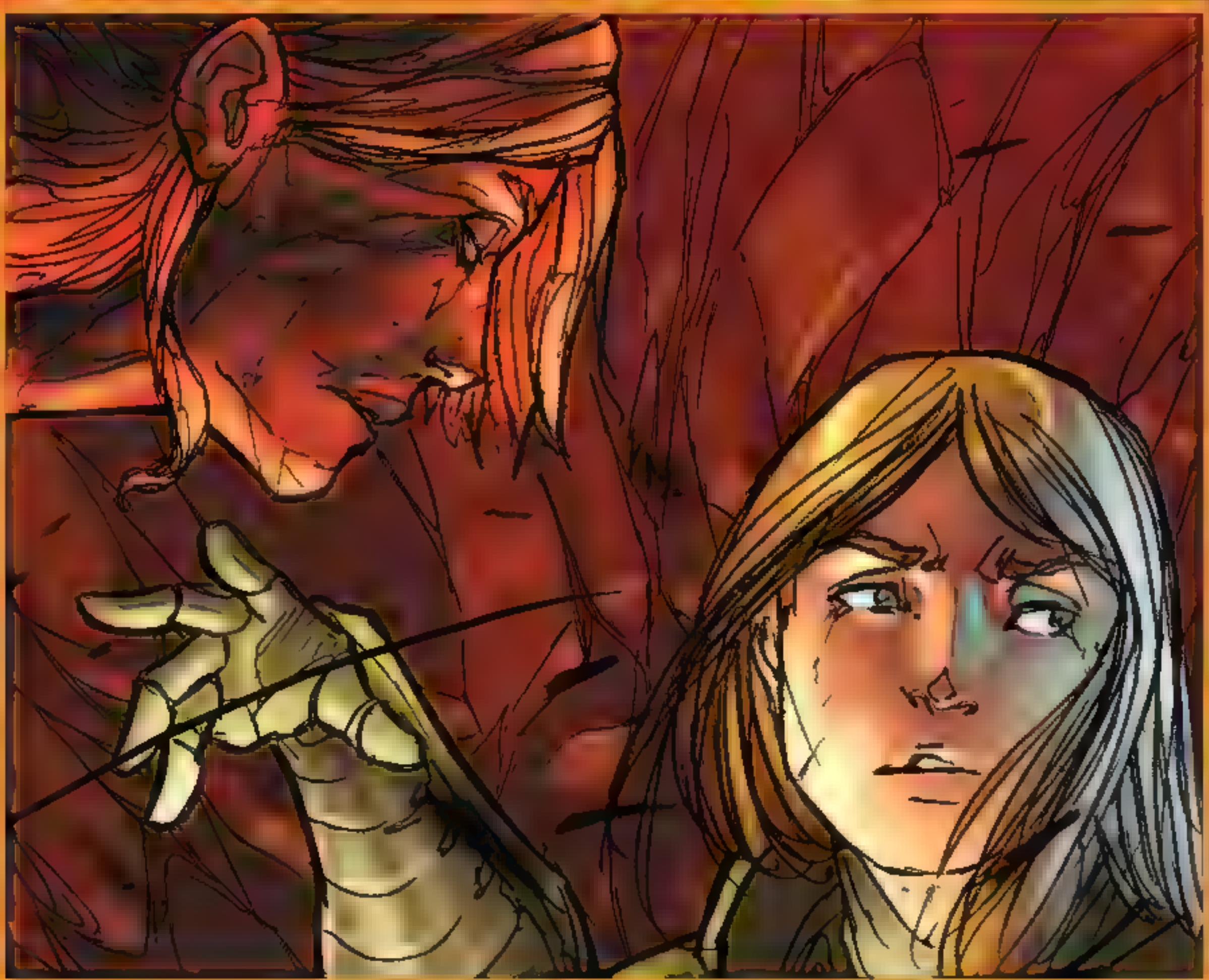
IT'S MY FAULT
WHAT HAPPENED
TO HER.

SHE WAS
JUST TRYING TO
LIVE HER LIFE IN RUSSIA--
AND I HAD TO COME
ALONG AND SCREW
IT ALL UP.*

*SEE SOULFIRE
VOLUME THREE FOR
MORE DETAILS!



I'M SORRY.
SO SORRY.
YOU DIDN'T
DESERVE THIS,
PAULA.

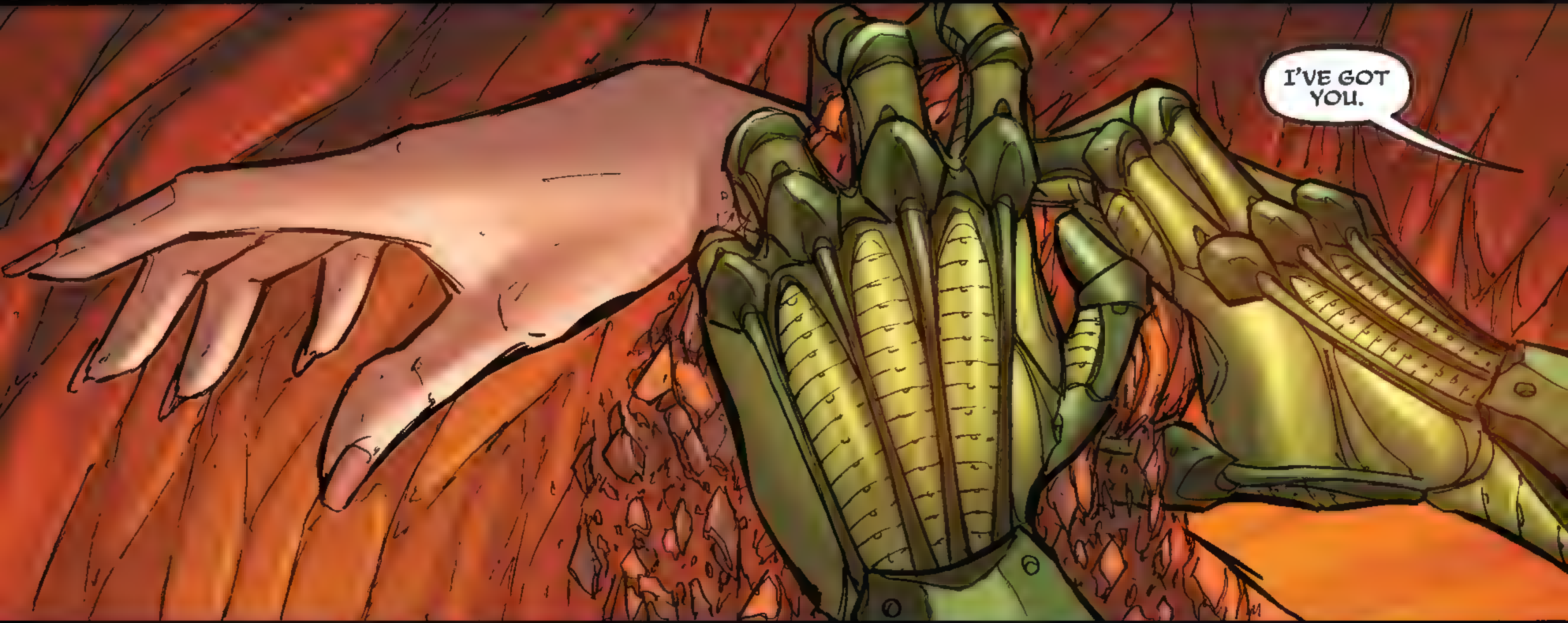




GRACE!



GRACE!
I'M HERE!



I'VE GOT
YOU.



EVERYTHING IS
GOING TO BE OKAY.
I PROMISE.



UH-OH.



THIS
CAN'T BE
A GOOD
SIGN.



Vol. 4

#8

OF 8
COVER A

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE





VOL. 4

#8

OF 8
COVER B

MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE



雨

Kyle Ritter

VOLUME FOUR

SINISTER REVENGE

THE OTHER SIDE

plot—
J.T. KRUL & FRANK MASTROMAURO

story—
J.T. KRUL

pencils—
GIUSEPPE CAFARO (PGS 1-13)
MIKE DeBALFO (PGS 14-20)

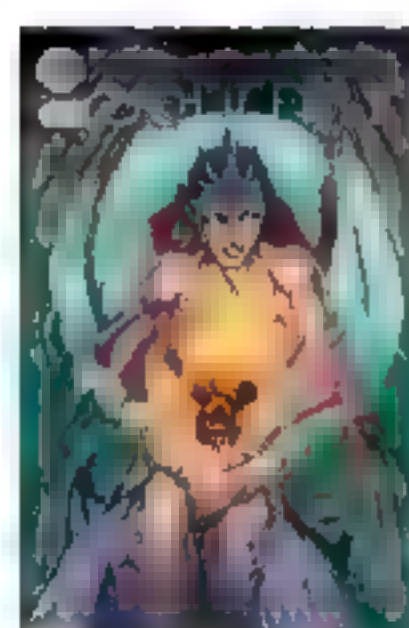
colors—
NEI RUFFINO
KYLE RITTER (PGS 14-20)

letters—
JOSH REED

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ, FRANK MASTROMAURO
Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD
Lettering Font Designed by: DREAMER DESIGN



A: Direct Edition:
MIKE DeBALFO &
JOHN STARR



B: Direct Edition:
GIUSEPPE CAFARO &
KYLE RITTER



C: Alamo City
Comic Con Exclusive
Limited Edition
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THE OTHER SIDE
THE OTHER SIDE
THE OTHER SIDE

THE STORY SO FAR...

After managing to save Grace but not her soul, Malikai, along with the Masters and Sarin decide to enter the Chaos Realm to retrieve her once and for all. While successful, Malikai soon discovers that the price for her freedom could be their lives...



THIS PLACE IS LIKE NOTHING
I'VE SEEN BEFORE. NOT IN
ANY VISIONS, OR DREAMS...

...OR NIGHTMARES.

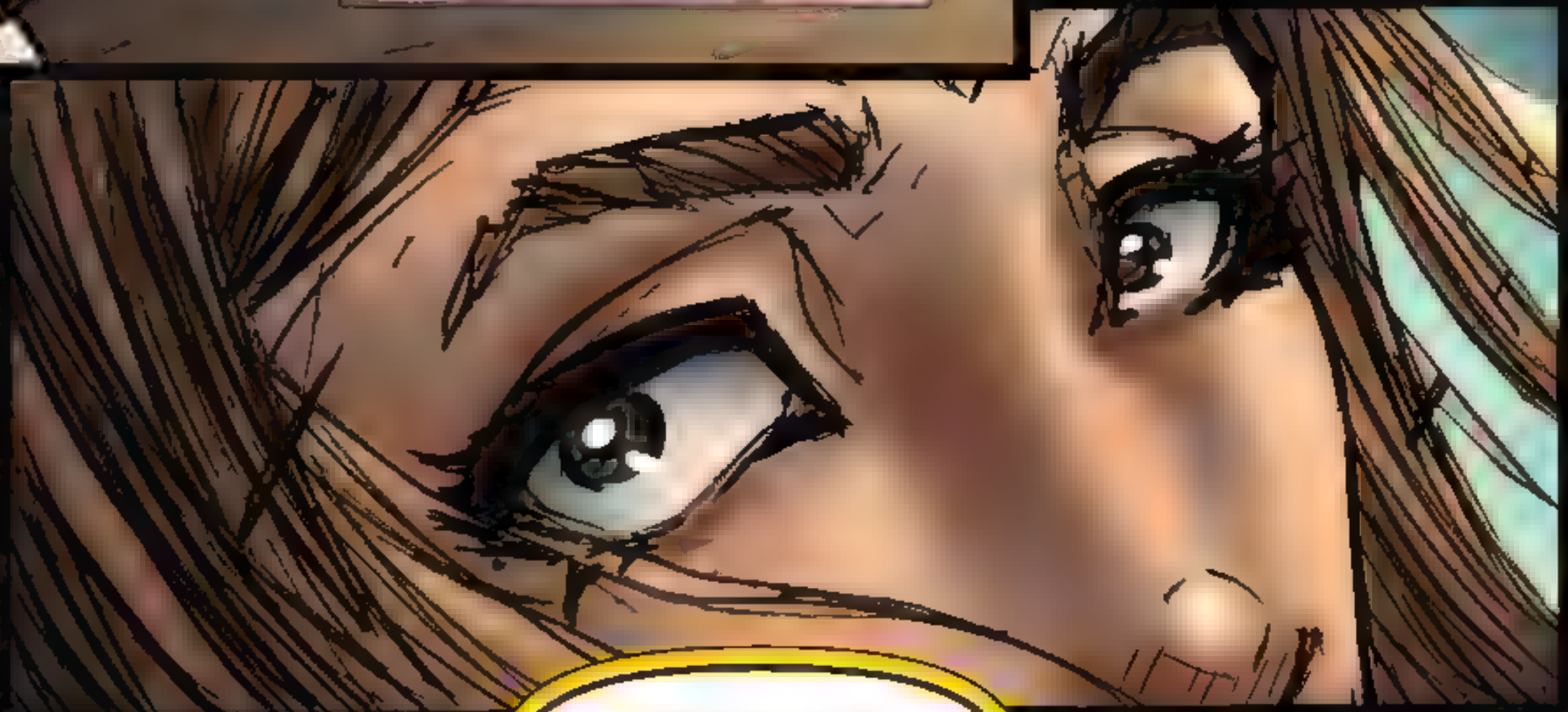
WHILE MALIKAI
SEARCHES FOR
GRACE'S SOUL,
ALL I CAN DO IS
WAIT.

THE FUTURES SWIRLING IN
MY HEAD ARE NOT REVEALED BY MY
POWER OF CLAIRVOYANCE.



THEY
ARE ONLY RANDOM
POSSIBILITIES--

--GENERATED BY
EITHER HOPE OR
DESPAIR.



YOU LOOK
AS LOVELY AS
EVER, PILI.



KAMEA?
YOU ARE
HERE?

WHERE
ELSE WOULD
YOU EXPECT
ME TO BE?

IF ANYTHING, IN
THE REALM OF ORDER.
NOT CHAOS.

WE ARE
ALL CHILDREN OF
BOTH, PILI.

A PART
OF ME WILL
ALWAYS REMAIN IN
THIS REALM--
BUT YOU...

...YOU
SHOULD NOT BE
HERE, PILI.

IT WAS THE ONLY
WAY MALIKAI COULD
HAVE A CHANCE TO
SAVE GRACE.

THESE
BATTLES ARE
NOT YOURS
TO FIGHT.

AS CLAIRVOYANT
MASTERS TO THE SPIRIT
OF THE SAMUSARA, WE ARE
TO GUIDE BUT NEVER LEAD THE
WAY. BE THE SIGNPOST--
NOT THE ROAD.

I COULDN'T LET
EVERYTHING FALL
APART. I HAD TO HELP.
I COULDN'T WATCH
THEM FAIL.

YOUR FAITH.
THAT IS WHAT IS
FAILING, PILI.

AND THAT
MAY PROVE TO BE
MORE DESTRUCTIVE
THAN ANYTHING
ELSE.

GRACE!

M-MALIKAI?
I... I WAS HAVING
THE WORST
NIGHTMARE.

HATE TO
BREAK IT TO
YOU, BUT--

ETHU--
GOD OF CHAOS.

--YOU'RE NOT
DREAMING.

THIS IS
REAL.



RAAAWWRRR!

BACK OFF!

REAL?

THEN,
IT'S TRUE. ALL
THOSE PEOPLE... ALL
THOSE SOULS...

...I...
DESTROYED
THEM...

YOU CAN
BEAT YOURSELF
UP AFTER WE GET
OUT OF THIS
HELLHOLE.



AHHH!

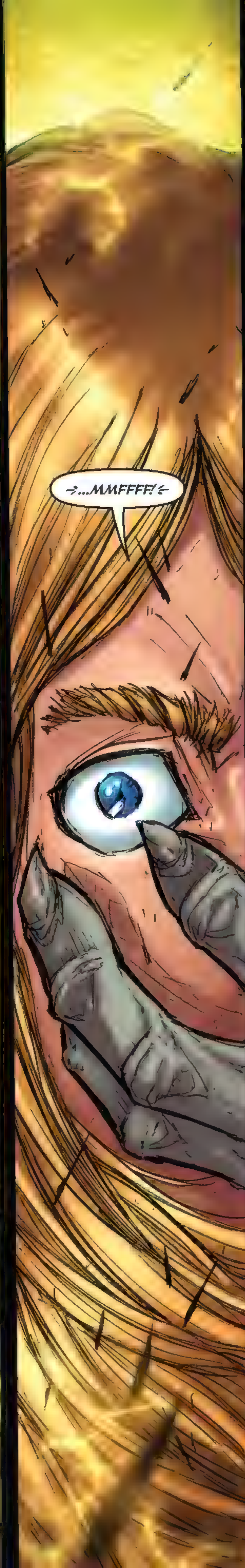
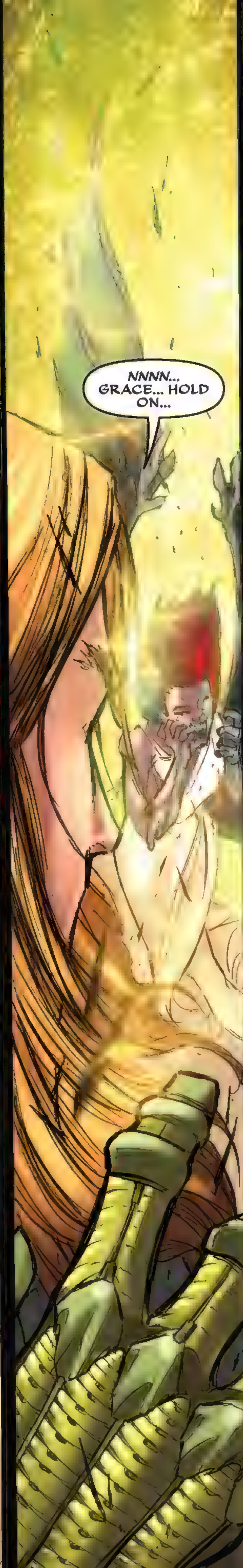
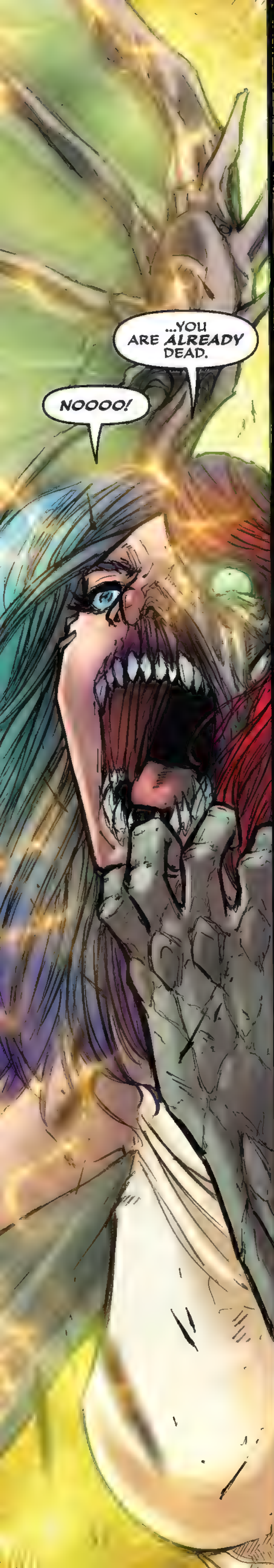
AHHHH!

IT FEELS FAMILIAR.

THE CHAOS TAKING OVER.

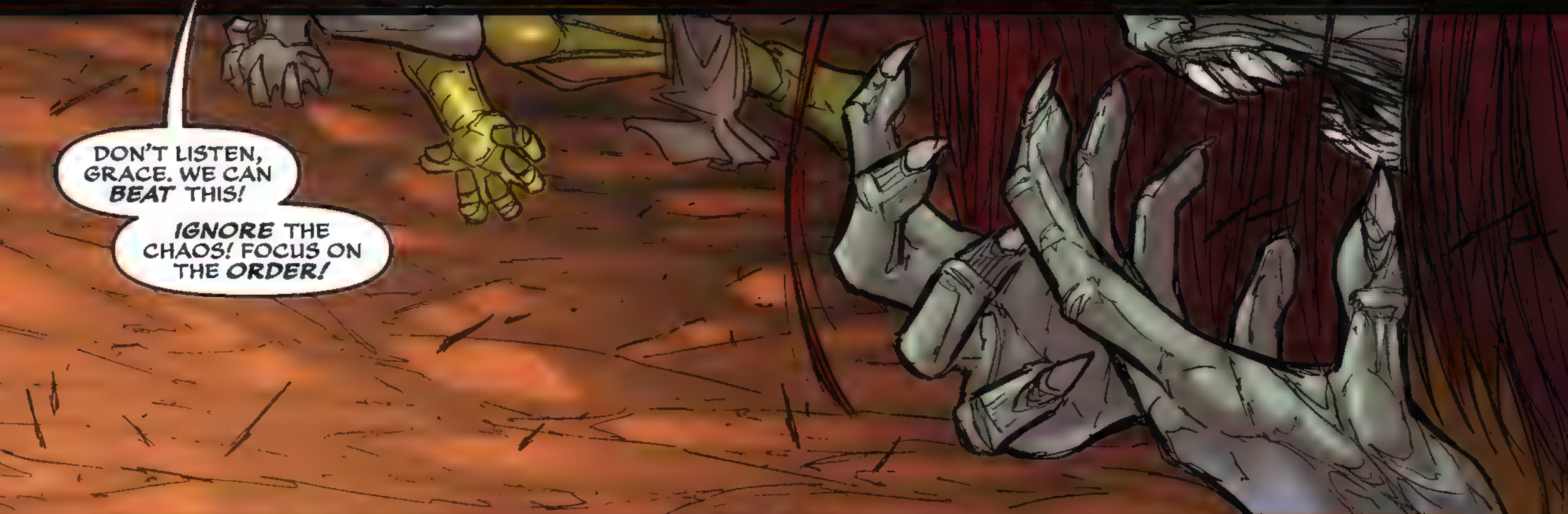
I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN. I'LL DIE FIRST.

OH, SWEET GRACE...



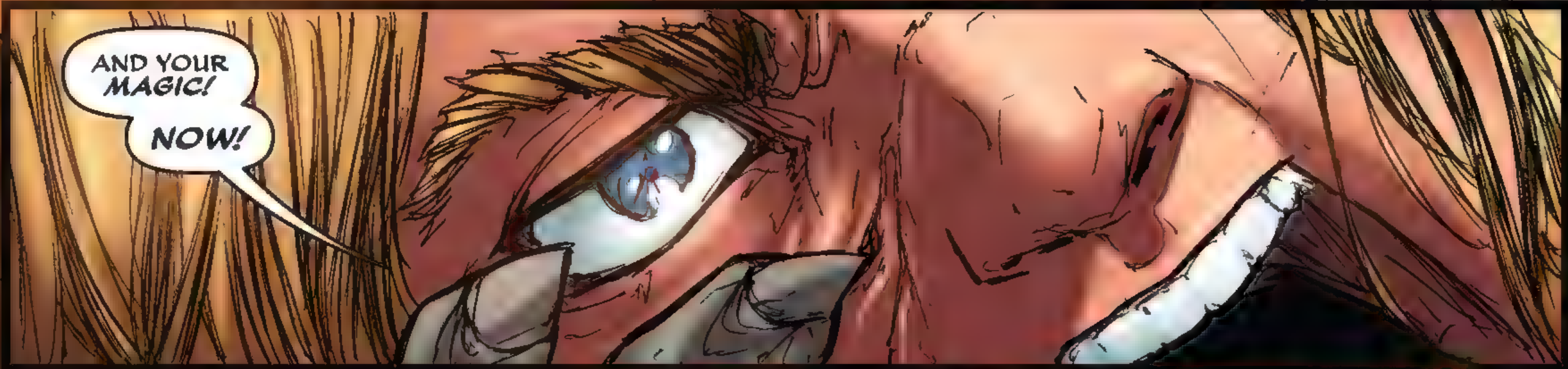


IT'S OVER,
GRACE. IT'S
BEEN OVER FOR
A LONG TIME,
NOW.



DON'T LISTEN,
GRACE. WE CAN
BEAT THIS!

IGNORE THE
CHAOS! FOCUS ON
THE ORDER!



AND YOUR
MAGIC!
NOW!



I NEVER FELT SUCH POWER
SURGING THROUGH ME
BEFORE. NOT EVEN THE DAY
WHEN MAGIC FIRST RETURNED.

LIKE EVERY
MOLECULE
IN MY BODY WAS
EXPLODING-- GIVING
BIRTH TO A NEW
UNIVERSE.



BUT THIS IS NO
BEGINNING.

THIS IS
THE **END.**



OR IT WOULD
HAVE BEEN—



IF HE DIDN'T
SHOW UP.

ANSU --
GOD OF ORDER.



FAYE'S STORY
COMES BACK TO
ME. OF ANSU, THE
GOD OF ORDER, AND
ETHU, THE GOD OF
CHAOS.

THEY STARTED
THIS ALL. THE
UNIVERSE.
THE MAGIC.
ALL CREATION.

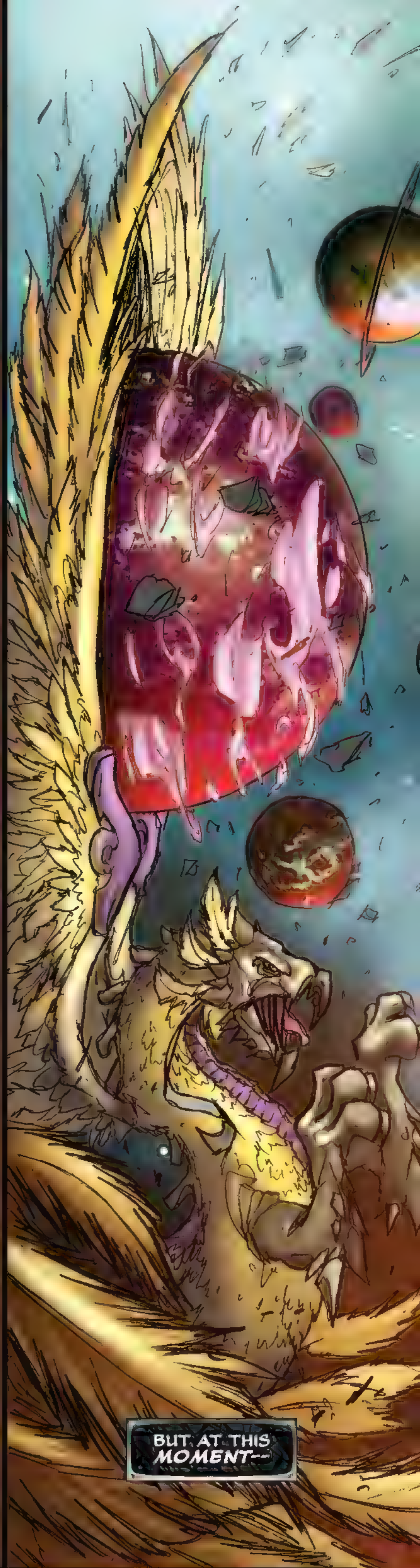
AND THEY
JUST MIGHT BE
FINISHING IT--
RIGHT BEFORE
OUR EYES.



GRACE AND
I HAVE BEEN
THROUGH A LOT
TOGETHER.



FACED ALMOST
EVERY KIND OF THREAT
IMAGINABLE.



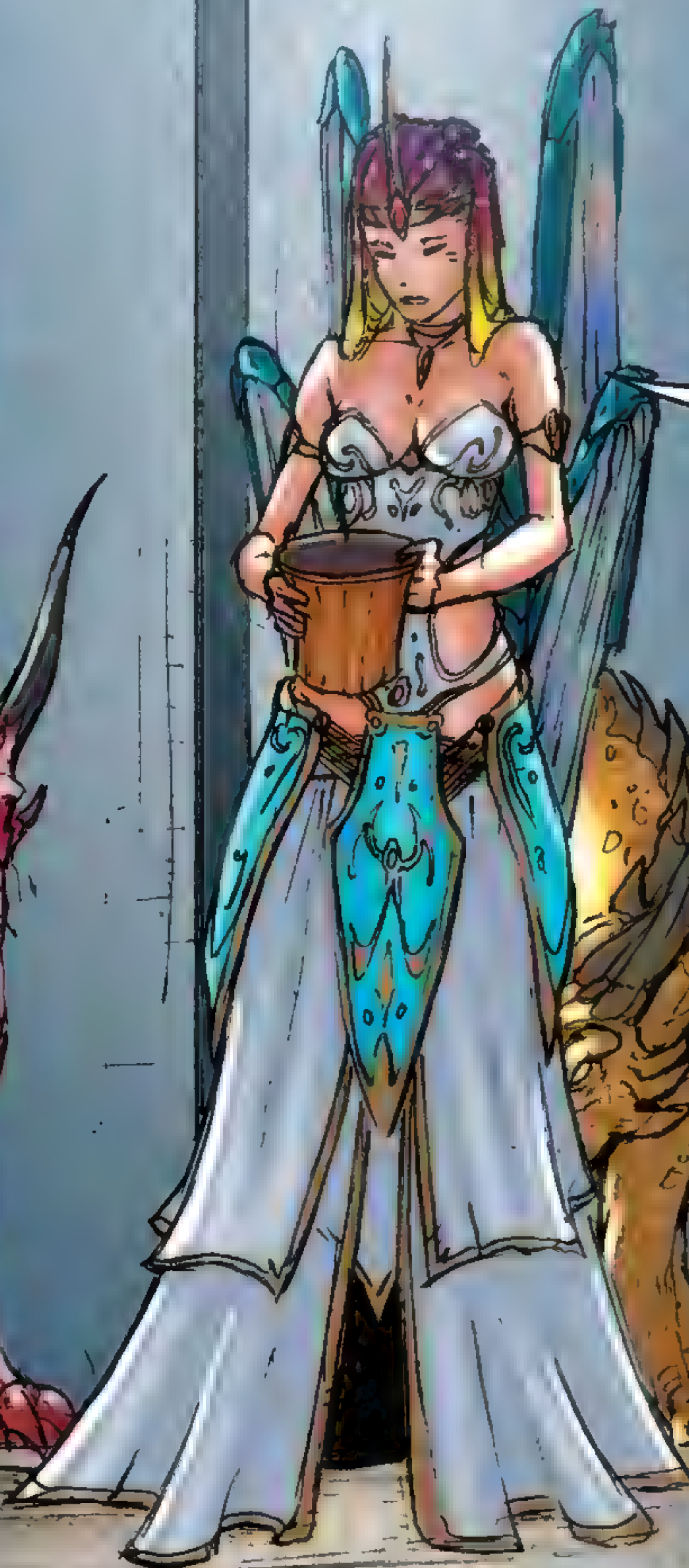
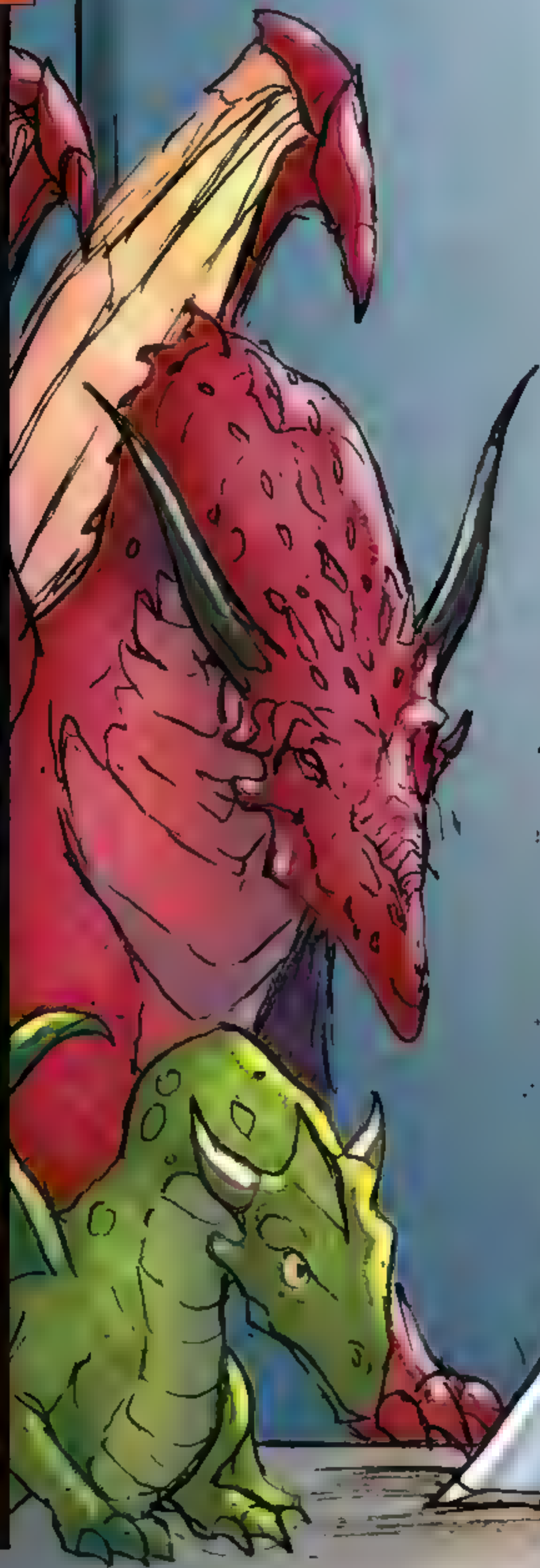
BUT AT THIS
MOMENT--



--WORDS
FAILED US.

LATER.

THEY STILL DO.



GRACE?

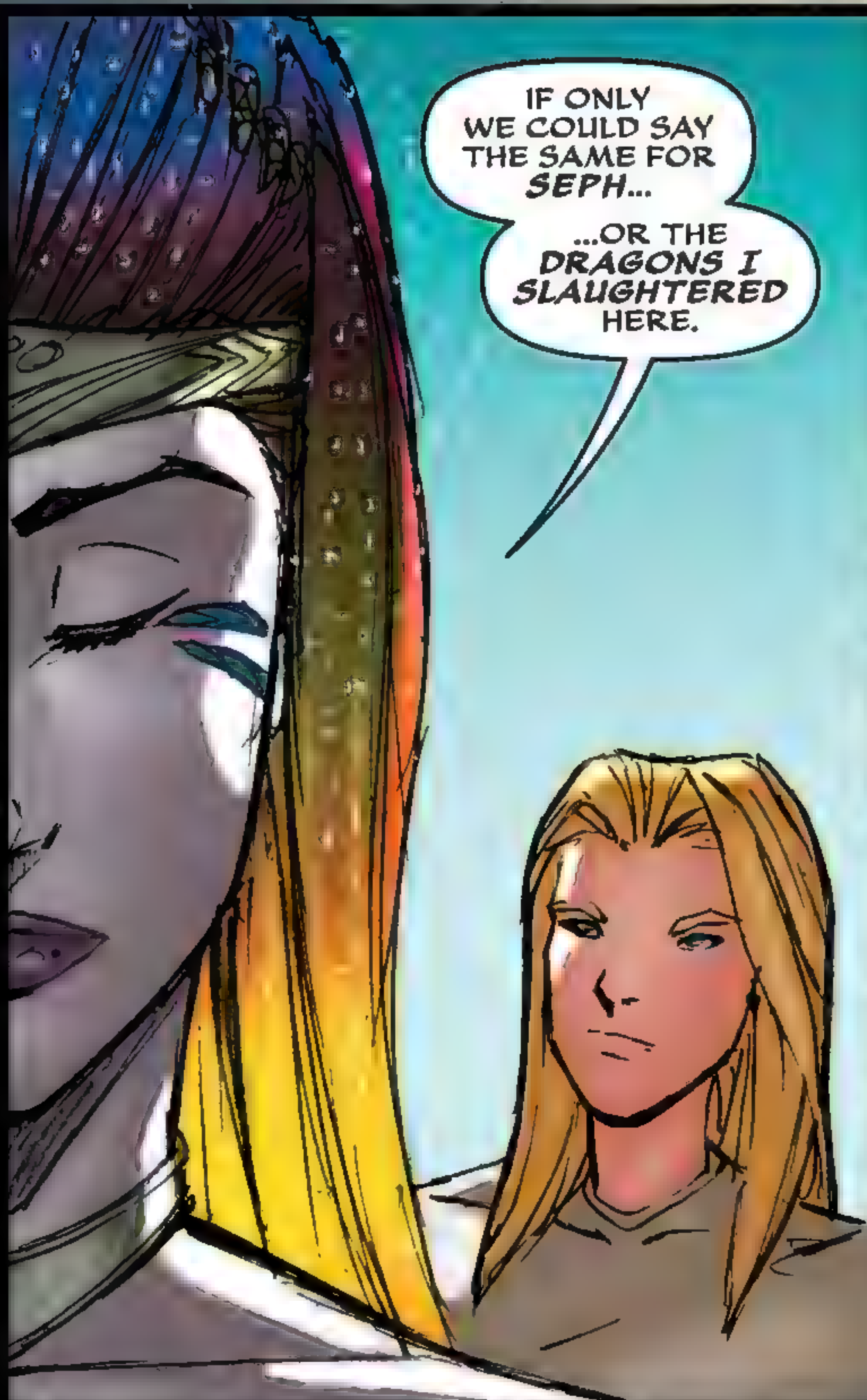
I'M HERE.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU UP AND ABOUT AGAIN.

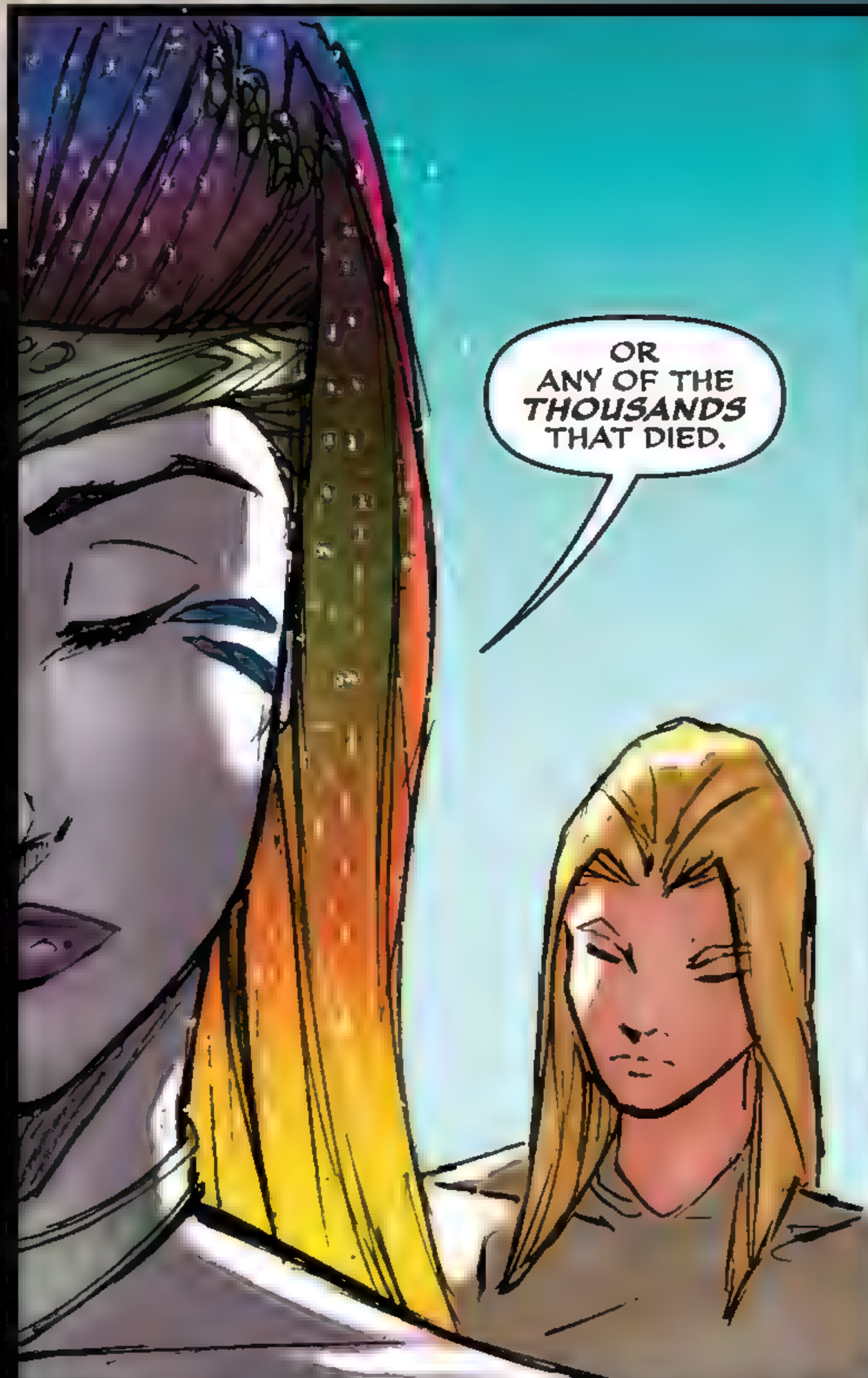


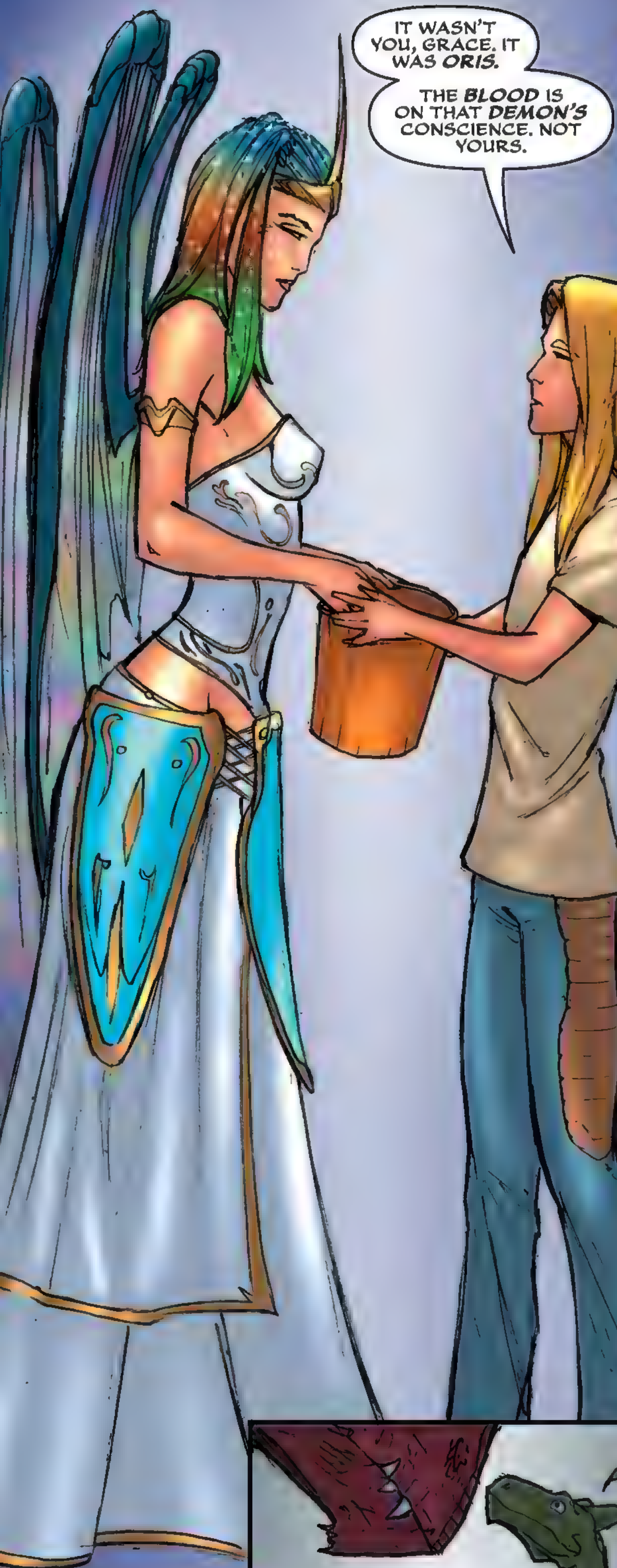
IF ONLY WE COULD SAY THE SAME FOR SEPH...

...OR THE DRAGONS I SLAUGHTERED HERE.



OR ANY OF THE THOUSANDS THAT DIED.





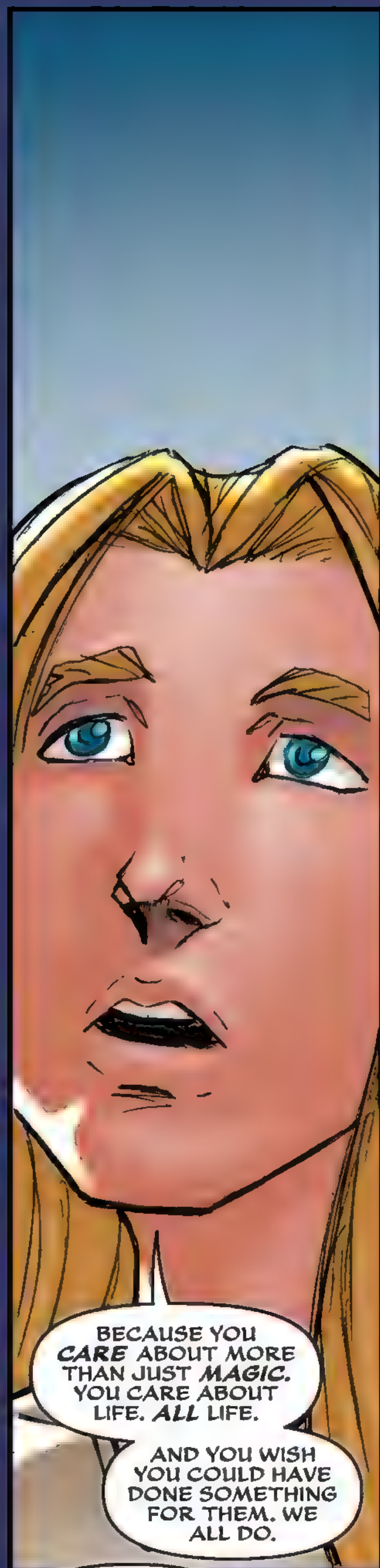
IT WASN'T
YOU, GRACE. IT
WAS *ORIS*.

THE *BLOOD* IS
ON THAT *DEMON'S*
CONSCIENCE. NOT
YOURS.



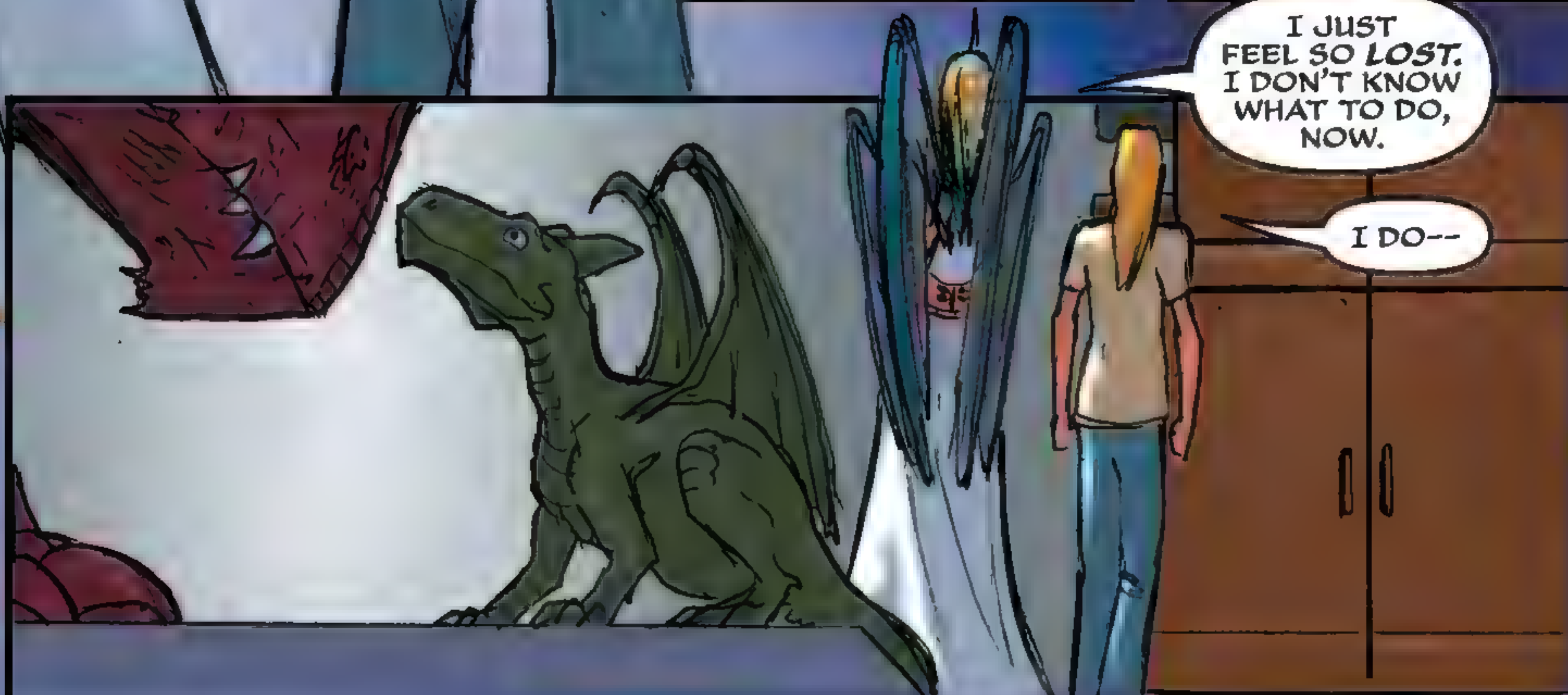
THEN WHY
DO I FEEL IT? WHY
DO I HEAR THEIR
CRIES?

SEE THEIR
FACES?



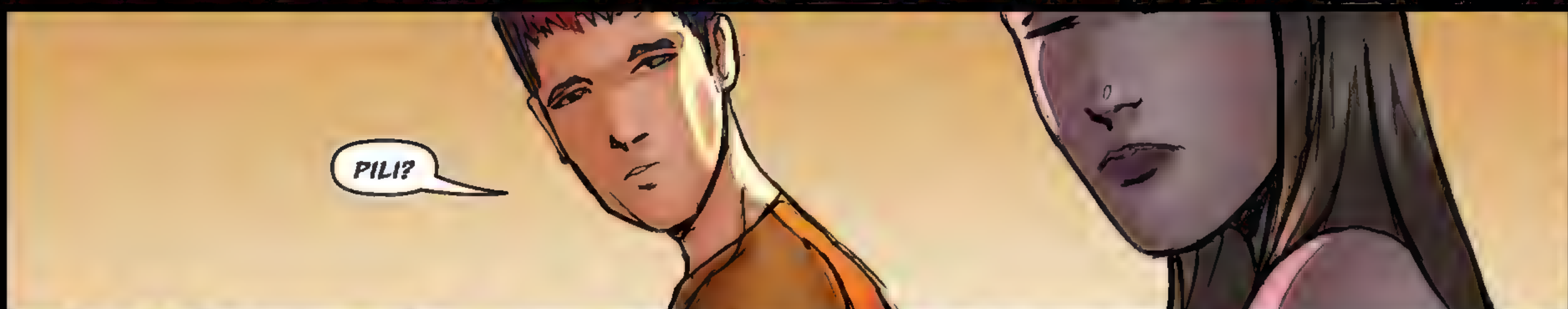
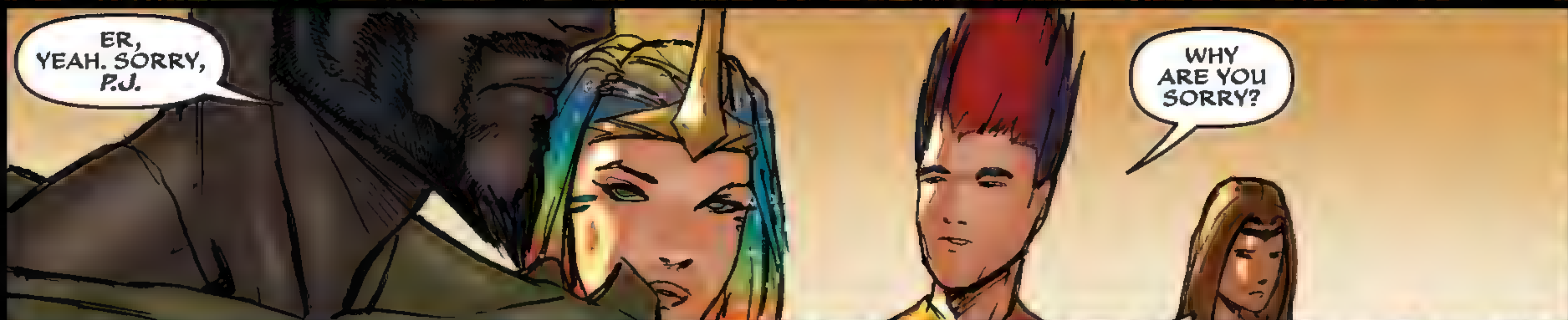
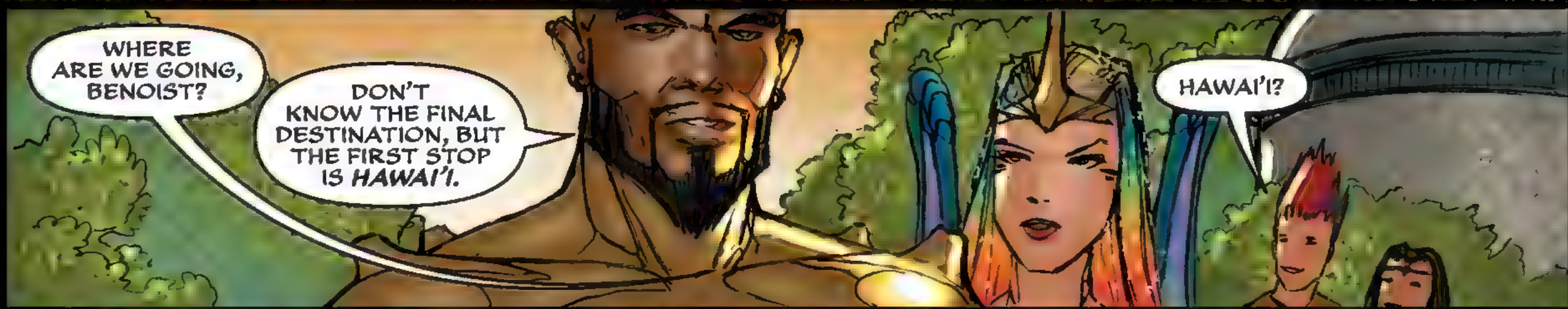
BECAUSE YOU
CARE ABOUT MORE
THAN JUST *MAGIC*.
YOU CARE ABOUT
LIFE. *ALL* LIFE.

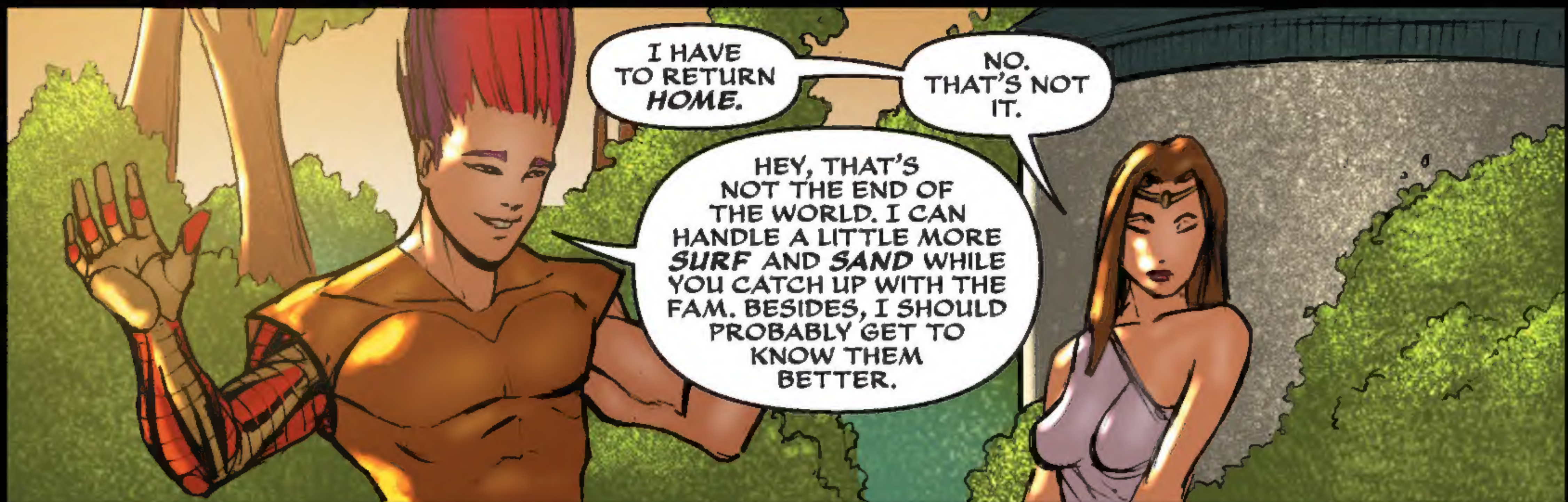
AND YOU WISH
YOU COULD HAVE
DONE SOMETHING
FOR THEM. WE
ALL DO.



I JUST
FEEL SO *LOST*.
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO,
NOW.

I DO--









YOU ARE LEAVING THE EVERLANDS.

AND, I'M GOING WITH YOU.



WHAT?

I GAVE UP EVERYTHING TO SERVE MY PEOPLE-- **SACRIFICED** MY HAPPINESS TO BUILD A **PEACE** BETWEEN THE SETHORU AND THE RAHTUMI.

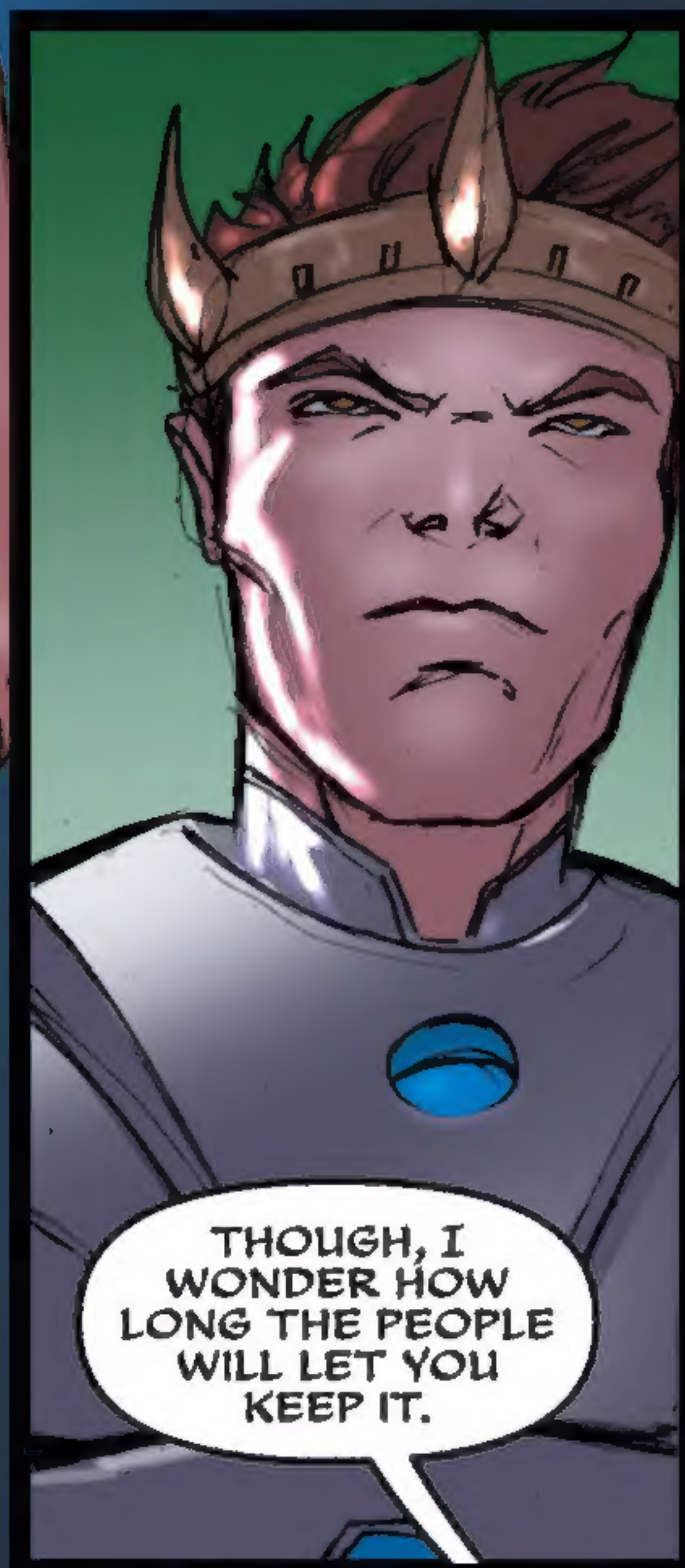


I SAW THEM THROUGH THE **DARKEST** OF TIMES, BUT NOW THAT THE **MAGIC** IS BACK-- THEY CAN BUILD THEIR OWN **FUTURE**.

AND I CAN FINALLY BUILD MINE.



THE **KINGDOM** IS YOURS, SARIN.



THOUGH, I WONDER HOW LONG THE PEOPLE WILL LET YOU KEEP IT.



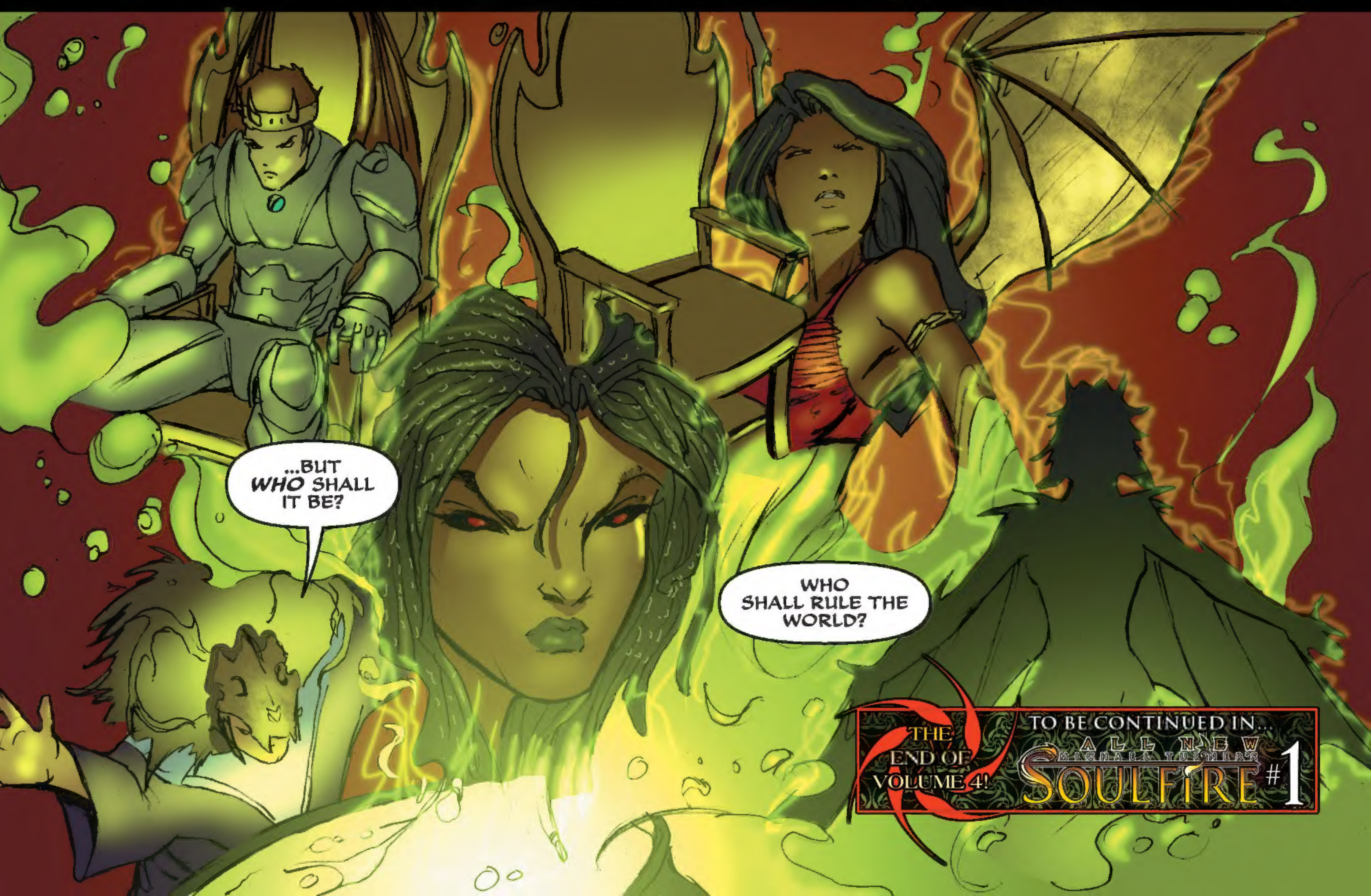
DESTINY
CHALLENGED...



FATE
CLOUDY...



SARIN...
NEEDS A
QUEEN...



...BUT
WHO SHALL
IT BE?

WHO
SHALL RULE THE
WORLD?

THE
END OF
VOLUME 4!

TO BE CONTINUED IN
ALL NEW
MICHAEL TORRELL
SOULFIRE #1